208 CECIL-DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY 7911 GREENWOOD AVE. TAKOMA PARK

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY

Survey ID: 208

Cemetery Name: Cecil-Davis Cemetery

Alternative name: Davis Family Cemetery

ADC MAP PAGE 37 GRID E-11

Address: 7911 Greenwood Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912-6824

County description and location: Map JN53, Parcel P949, Block G, Unmarked lot Flower Ave. Park Section 3, District 13, Account # 01005474

Type: Family/private Setting: Suburban Condition: ~~Fair~~ Poor

Negative impacts: Cemetery has been neglected for decades and is overgrown with brush and shrubs. In 1933 a house was constructed on a portion of the cemetery lot. It is not known whether the house was built over graves. No visible evidence of grave markers or other structural evidence of cemetery.

Approx. number of burials: 125 Approx. date range of burials: 1730-1900

Description: One-quarter acre corner lot at the intersection of Greenwood Ave. and Prospect St. Property has been used as a garden for decades but is not well maintained. Footpaths are evident. Trees and shrubs cover the grounds.

Surveyor: Jack Carson, 700 Auburn Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, 301-270-2096, tymetraveller@att.net

Survey date: April 2004

Photographer: CARL PETERSON Date: NOV 2004 Photo #: 208-01 thru 208-04

Current owner: Thomas (Mike) Welsh, 901 Prospect St., Takoma Park, MD 20912, 301-588-5629

Historic status: Unknown

UTM: 18 S 0326764 UTM 4317476

Additional sources of information: Montgomery County land records; article in the *Washington Star* newspaper dated August 8, 1937, by John Clagett Proctor, entitled "Graveyard Link in History: Area is Last Resting Place of Some Prominent Citizens of Montgomery County – Well-Kept Garden in Present Condition – Early Takoma Park"

FAMILY BURYING GROUND ON CECIL PLANTATION, KOMA PARK (CECIL PLANTATION)
Directions: 901 Prospect Avenue at corner of Greenwood Avenue, at extreme North end of Takoma Park. [A.D.C. Map: Montgomery, page 40, grid coordinates B-4.] Condition of cemetery: Well kept in 1937. Inactive cemetery. Location of transcribed records: Montgomery County Historical Society Library, 42 West Middle Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Comments: Over 125 interments, information from 8 Aug 1937 newspaper article.

HT1

JACK CARSON

208 CECIL - DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY 7911 GREENWOOD AVE. TAKOMA PARK

ıetery Inventory

ID: 208

Name: Davis Family Burying Ground

Alternate name:

Address: On Cecil Plantation

Town: Takoma Park

ADC Map Page _____ **Grid** _____

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 _____ **Date range of burials** _____
Description (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping, fence, paths and roads, etc.)

Surveyor(s) _____ **Survey date** _____
Photographer _____ **Date** _____ **Photo no.** _____

Current owner _____
Address/Phone No. _____

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

UTM _____

Additional sources of information:

208 CECIL - DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
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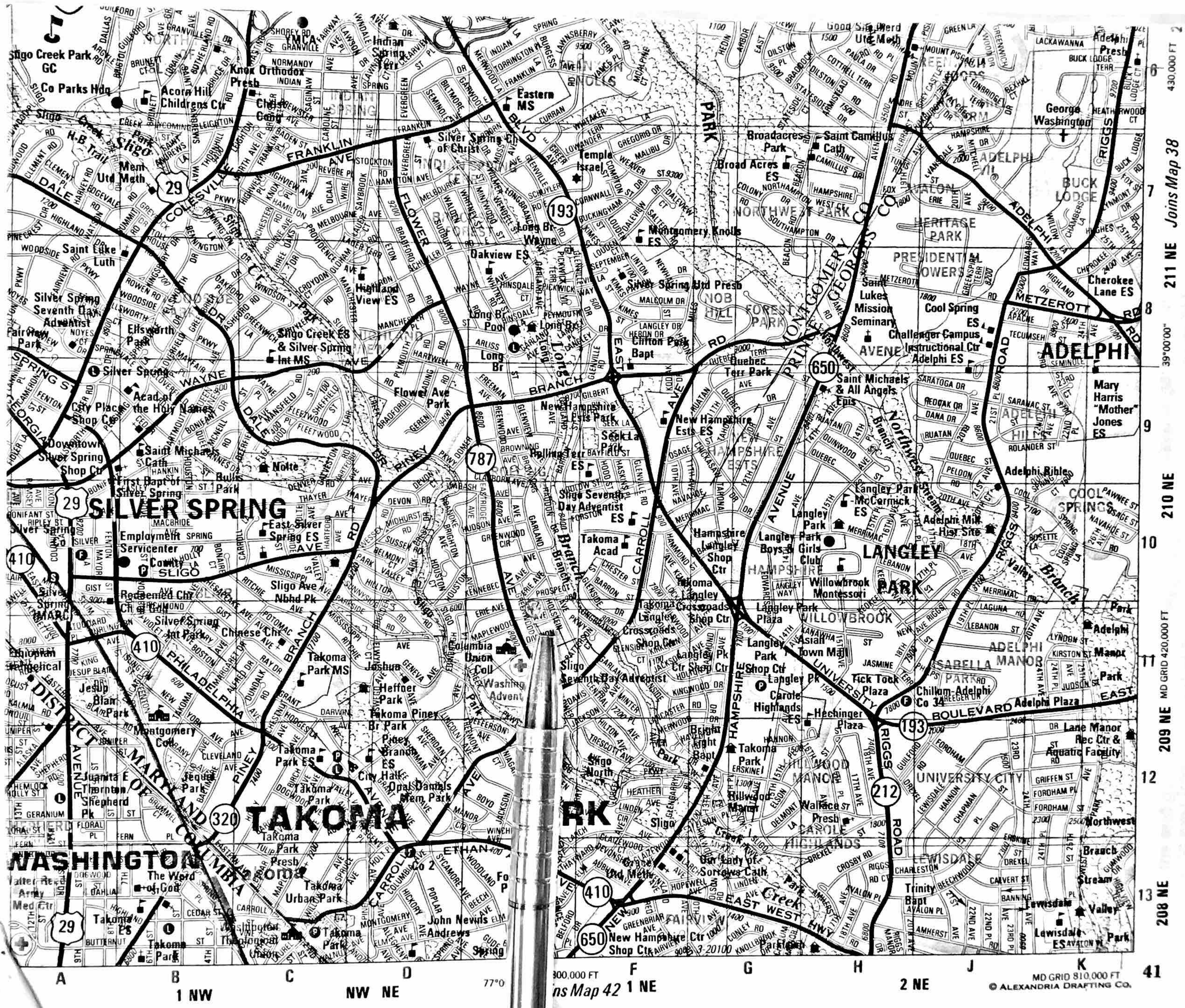

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PHOTO LOG
Davis Family Burying Ground (ID# 208)
Nov 2004 - 4 photos

Lot on corner of Greenwood and Prospect, looking southeast

208-01.JPG

View of lot looking east from Greenwood Ave

208-02.JPG

Footpaths and garden on cemetery site, looking east from Greenwood Ave

208-03.JPG

View of garden from Prospect Street, looking south

208-04.JPG

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CECIL - DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

700 Auburn Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912-5853
July 21, 2004

Anne Brockett
5318 Pooks Hill Rd
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Anne:

Enclosed please find a summary of my research concerning the Cecil-Davis Cemetery on the outskirts of Takoma Park. The actual land records referenced in my summary are readily available at the Rockville land records office. I have included a copy of Jane Cromer's affidavit and would be happy to provide the original once the project's record system is finalized and in a permanent location. I've also provided a transcript of John Procter's 1937 article. I have a copy of the original article but it is difficult to read. This article also can be found in the DC Library's Washingtonia Room and at the Mont. Co. Hist. Society Library in Rockville.

Thank you for your time and effort in managing this important project. If you have any questions please contact me at 301-270-2096 or tymetraveller@att.net.

Sincerely,

Jack Carson

Jack Carson

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AFFIDAVIT

Cemetery located at Greenwood and Prospect Avenues in Takoma Park, MD

I, Jane Lutes Cromer, observed evidence of a cemetery located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Greenwood and Prospect Avenues in Takoma Park, Maryland.

During the period 1921-1975, I resided at 8214 (formerly 814) Flower Ave. and at 8208 (formerly 808) Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, MD, located less than three blocks from Greenwood and Prospect Avenues. On numerous occasions in the early part of this period, I passed by this property and I observed its appearance as a burial site, including the presence of several small headstones.

Jane Lutes Cromer
Signature

Jane Lutes Cromer
4612 Cherry Valley Drive
Rockville, MD 20853

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in the State of Maryland, this 8 day of December, in the year 2000

Elayne E Hallen
Notary Public
Com Exp 3/1/01

Source: Davis Family Book, Mont Co Hist Soc
October, 2000

the proper age. The other Levi is still living with them, and there were three children, none of whose names appeared in the 1850 census. What appears to be the obituary of Levi F. Young appeared in the Montgomery County Sentinel. It stated that he died May 4, 1883 at his home in Unity, Maryland in his 44nd year, son of the late Levi Young of Howard County, and son in law of the late Samuel Harris of Unity. The obituary reports that he left three children, aged 18, 16 and 10. Records of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery report that Levi was born Dec. 3, 1844, and died April 22, 1883, his wife Mary Jane is buried with him. The children were

A. Jane Young, born c 1864. In the 1880 census, we read the entry as Lara B., born c 1868, but it could have been Lara J. (the name)

B. Rudy Young, born c 1866. The 1880 census includes Levi H. Young, born c 1866, who is perhaps this same individual

C. Estella M. Young, born c 1873

James Davis

We have not yet identified this James Davis, other than by references found in an Equity Case which appears to involve his sons, and birth records of his children, which indicate his wife was Anne Cecil. James Davis was married May 3, 1808 to Anne Cecil, born July 14, 1783, daughter of Rahiel Cecil (1743), who was found in the 1850 census of the Northwest Hundred of Frederick County, with several children, including Anne, then one year old. The Cecil plantation especially included a one quarter acre burial plot located at the corner of Prospect and Greenwood Avenues in Takoma Park, Maryland, where there are said to be about 150 burials, including Davis and Cecil family members. There is a Bill of Complaint dated November 26, 1854 in an Equity Case filed in liber EHF 7 at folio 1 in Montgomery County, wherein Josiah Harding and other creditors claim an indebtedness from the estate of John B. Davis, deceased, naming his heirs. The real estate owned by the deceased is described as being a tract of 6 acres, part of Beall's Lowland, improved by a store and dwelling house, with

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Title Chain – Plat Book 4, Plat 366 & Plat 400
Section 3, Flower Avenue Park
Takoma Park, MD 20912

[Note: Plat 366 (filed 9/13/1927) and Plat 400 (filed 8/19/1929) are alike in all respects except that blocks B, C, and F are platted in Plat 366 but are excluded from platting in Plat 400.]

May 1924 – Property is subdivided by Harvey A. and Vera E. Morrison, owners. Plat shows an unnumbered lot at the corner of Greenwood and Prospect Aves., identified as "DAVIS FAMILY LOT Containing One-fourth of an acre." Under the Engineer's Certification reference is made that this is the same property described "... in Liber 328 at Folio 351, which excepts therefrom one-fourth of an acre contained in the graveyard and that the one-fourth of an acre contained in the graveyard is not a part of the subdivision, but is shown for convenience only ...."

Date: 3/21/1923
Liber: 328
Folio: 351
Grantor: Best and Louise A. Seek
Grantee: Harvey A. and Vera E. Morrison

The property is described as two tracts of land, one of which includes 5.75 acres, excepting one-fourth acre in the graveyard. Reference is made that this is the same property as described in Liber 230, Folio 275.

Date: 10/22/1912
Liber: 230
Folio: 275
Grantor: Samuel M. Fenton
Grantee: Best and Louise A. Seek

The property is described as two tracts of land, one of which includes 5.75 acres, excepting one-fourth acre in the graveyard. Reference is made that this is the same land Samuel M. Fenton bought from Anna D. Fenton and John Myers and wife, Feb. 1880 at Liber E.B.P 23, Folio 10.

Date: 2/10/1880
Liber: E.B.P 23
Folio: 10
Grantor: Anna Fenton (widow of Samuel Fenton) et. al. (appear to be heirs of Samuel Fenton, who died intestate)

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Grantee: Samuel M. Fenton

It appears from this deed that Samuel M. Fenton purchased the estate from his mother and siblings for $2,400. The property is described as "... part of Kilmarnock ... 48 3/8 acres of land exclusive of one-fourth acre reserved as a graveyard ..." by deed from John Myers and wife, to Samuel Fenton dated Oct. 30, 1869 and recorded in E.B.P. 19, Folio 234, and exclusive of land sold to Francis P. Blair.

Date: Deed dated 10/30/1869, recorded 12/10/1878
Liber: E.B.P. 19
Folio: 234
Grantor: John and Martha P. Myers
Grantee: Samuel Fenton

This deed transfers the property for $3,000. The property is described as "... part of Kilmarnock ... containing 68 7/8 acres, exclusive of one-fourth acre in the graveyard, which is hereby excepted and reserved in fee simple." Reference is made that this is the same property as described in J.G.H. 9, Folio 68.

Date: 1/2/1863
Liber: J.G.H. 9
Folio: 68
Grantor: Benjamin Davis
Grantee: John Myers

This deed transfers the property for $2,750. The property is described as 68 7/8 acres "... exclusive of one quarter of an acre in the graveyard which is hereby excepted and reserved in fee simple." *This deed is the first instance of the Davis' reserving the graveyard from sale outside of the family.*

Date: 5/1/1847
Liber: S.T.S. 3
Folio: 45
Grantor: Thomas T. C. Davis et. al.
Grantee: Benjamin Davis, Hezekiah Davis, and Mary R. Davis

This deed transfers 226 acres of property in four tracts from what appears to be several Davis brothers and sisters to a subset of Benjamin, Hezekiah, and Mary R. Davis. The property description appears to include the graveyard although there is no explicit mention of the graveyard, which is not unexpected since the property is remaining within the family.

Title Chain – 7911 Greenwood Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
Tax Account and Parcel ID No.: 13-9-1005474

Date: 12/1/1993
Liber: 12117
Folio: 319-332
Grantor: Thomas M. Welsh, Paul L. Bair
Grantee: Thomas M. Welsh

This is a buyout of Paul Bair's interest in the amount of $53,611.65. There is no mention of the graveyard in the property description. Reference is made that this is the "Davis Family Lot" and is the same property as described in Liber 9701, Folio 064, and Plat Book 4, Plat 366. On 12/8/1993 Thomas Welsh took out a mortgage on the property in the amount of $77,000.

Date: 4/4/1991
Liber: 9701
Folio: 64-66
Grantor: Dorothy M. Williams
Grantee: Thomas M. Welsh, Paul L. Bair

This is the sale of the property for the amount of $112,374. There is no mention of the graveyard in the property description. Reference is made that this is the "Davis Family Lot" and is the same property as described in Liber 8526, Folio 775 and Plat Book 4, Plat 366.

Date: 10/13/1988
Liber: 8526
Folio: 775-777
Grantor: Lucretia T. Gingell
Grantee: Dorothy M. Williams

This deed transfers the property for no consideration. Reference is made that this is the same property described in Civil Action 33301, and is the "Davis Family Lot" as shown in Plat Book 4, Plat 366. *This is the first deed that makes no mention of the graveyard.*

Date: 10/6/1988
Civil Action: 33301
Plaintiff: Dorothy M. Williams
Defendant: Lucretia T. Gingell

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This lawsuit stemmed from the defendant's refusal to complete settlement for purchase of the property in the amount of $500. This lawsuit appears to have been initiated to demonstrate the plaintiff's clear title to the property and to declare void language in the existing deed requiring that the property remain in the Davis family. The plaintiff received a final judgment favorable on both of these legal points. Included in the court documentation as Exhibit 1 is a deed dated 8/22/1986, Liber 7360, Folio 876 in which the property is described as "Grave Lot."

Date: 8/22/1986
Liber: 7360
Folio: 876
Grantor: Delores Elizabeth Gates, Barbara Ann Smith, William H. Berkeley
Grantee: Dorothy M. Williams

This deed transfers the property for no consideration. The grantors and the grantee are the surviving heirs to the estate of James Augustus Davis, Sr. who died in 1950, Phoebe M. Davis (spouse of James A. Davis, Sr.) who died in 1967, and James Augustus Davis, Jr. who died in 1976. The property is described as "... being one-fourth acre, Grave Lot in Samuel J. Fenton, deed, and more particularly located as unnumbered lot in Section 3, Block G, Flower Avenue Park in Montgomery County, Maryland." Reference is made that the original deed is filed in Liber E.B.P. 23 at Folio ten, February 10,1880, and that this is the same property as conveyed to James Augustus Davis, Sr., by a deed from Joseph S. Davis dated July 18, 1932 and recorded January 3, 1933 in Liber 548, Folio 153.

Date: 7/18/1932
Liber: 548
Folio: 153
Grantor: Joseph S. Davis
Grantee: James Augustus Davis, Sr.

This deed transfers the property for $10. The deed stipulates that "... at the death of James Augustus Davis, Sr., the following described property is to go to James Aug. Davis, Jr. or to Dorotay (sic) Marie Davis, or to Delores Elizabeth Davis, whichever one is living in order named, said lot to be kept in the Davis family, and is never to be sold." The property is described as "... being one-fourth acre, Grave Lot in Samuel J. Fenton, deed, and more particularly located as unnumbered lot in Section 3, Block G, Flower Avenue Park in Montgomery County, Maryland, the original deed being filed in E.B.P. Number 23, at Folio 10, February 10, 1880."

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From the Washington Star, August 8, 1937
by John Clagett Proctor

GRAVEYARD LINK IN HISTORY
Area is Last Resting Place of Some Prominent Citizens of Montgomery County – Well-Kept Garden in Present Condition – Early Takoma Park

In the early days there were many private burial plots in and around Washington, which were here when the Capital was moved to this location in 1800, and some of these could be identified for a considerable number of years afterward. One of the most notable of these was the Burnes' graveyard, which stood on the south side of H Street between Ninth and Tenth streets, about where is now the Printcraft Building, and here was the famous Van Ness Mausoleum until 1872 when it was moved to the Oak Hill Cemetery.

However, although so many of the early burial places hereabout are known, still, occasionally suspicion of an unknown one bobs up, as was recently the case when an excavation was being made in downtown Seventh street, and a human skull was unearthed. In this case there was no record of burial place in this particular location, and it is quite probable the skull was brought to this spot from some nearby graveyard, or it might have been just a part of a homo specimen.

But once in a while a hitherto unknown graveyard does show up, and proves very interesting, as one the writer recently investigated in response to a letter addressed to the Editor of The Star, in which the author said:
"Being a constant reader of The Star ever since I can remember, and quite interested in unusual and quaint things and doings or customs of bygone days, my eye caught this little clipping I am inclosing with my letter in Thursday or Friday evening's Start. It is interesting to me, because I have in my car an old family burial plot, dating back many, many years in the past, and all the marking of the graves have been done in the manner mentioned in this clipping, by my ancestors. I am making this a sort of pastime or hobby, if it may be called that. When I came into possession of this piece of ground, it was covered with old brambles and honeysuckle, weeds and , indeed, most everything had covered the entire one-quarter acre; with great care and lots of work I have made it over into a pretty nice park. I thought maybe Mr. John Clagett Proctor might be interested. I read his writings every Sunday and they are quite interesting to me. I have the deed to the property and other information should anyone be interested and would like to call and see me. Most sincerely,
J.A. Davis
"901 Prospect Avenue
Takoma Park, Md."

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The clipping referred to by Mr. Davis, as taken from The Star, follows:
"MARKING OLD GRAVES"
"There is a burying ground near Webster, Mass., in which the graves are marked with field stones; large ones indicate old men and the small ones young men."

When the writer called on Mr. Davis, whose home and cemetery are at the corner of Prospect and Greenwood avenues at the extreme north end of Takoma Park, Md., he found a man much fascinated by the work he has been doing - in beautifying and caring for the graves of some of his early ancestors.

Mr. Davis is not an old man, or for this reason we might attribute his great reverence for the dead, but to him caring for this sacred plot is a matter of sentiment, aroused, perhaps, by the fact that he inherited the one-quarter acre of ground, upon which also stands his home, from an uncle, who stipulated that this particular piece of land should always remain in the family.

According to Mr. Davis, in all there are about 125 persons buried in these plots, and this includes his great-grandfather and great-grandmother, Hezekiah Davis and wife.

At an early date the farm hereabout, which must have been on considerable acreage, was known as the Cecil Plantation, having been inherited by Anna Cecil, who, according to the family Bible, married James Davis, May 3, 1799, and Scharf, in his "History of Western Maryland," practically substantiates this in his Montgomery County record, where he records the issuing of a marriage license to James Davis and Anney Cisell, April 25, 1799.

The parents of Anna Cecil, who was born July 12, 1772, were Gabriel and Mary Cecil, and beside Anna, the children of the latter included: Samuel Cecil, born October 4, 1752; Eleanor Cecil, born April 19, 1754; John Cecil, born October 9, 1757; James Cecil, born February 8, 1759; William Cecil, born January 31, 1761; Mary Cecil, born January 31, 1763; Jemima Cecil, born November 25, 1766; Thomas Cecil, born March 20, 1771; and Anna, who married James Davis.

The age of this burial plot (there apparently being no records to go by) is believed to run back at least as far as 1734, and that the Cecil family lived somewhere in this neighborhood at that time. Indeed, not long since, James A. Davis, who lives on the place, found a confirmation certificate issued to Mary Cecil during the year mentioned, by the then rector of St. Paul's Church, more generally known as Rock Creek Church, and she was probably the mother of Gabriel Cecil, who was the father of Anna, who married James Davis. This certificate is one of the prized relics in the library of the Washington Cathedral.

The family name is a very old one in Maryland history, and the writer was able to pick at random the name of Joanna Cecil, who was mentioned as living in Calvert

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County as early as 1695, though it is likely the family was among the pioneer settlers, for there was a known friendship between the Calverts and the Cecils before the charter of Maryland was issued to George Calvert, the then Lord Baltimore, June 20, 1632.

The friendship between these two families is said to have been increased when Sir Robert Cecil, Queen Elizabeth's principal secretary of state, later recommended George Calvert as clerk of the Privy Council of King James, and, though George Calvert never came to America, having died before the execution of the patent to Maryland, named in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, yet his son, Cecil Calvert - undoubtedly named in honor of his friend, Sir Robert Cecil - did settle here as history so notably records. Of course, Cecil County, in the northeastern part of the State, is named either for some member of the Cecil family or for Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore.

In glancing over the first United States census, for 1790, but two heads of families of the name Cecil were found then living in Montgomery County and these being Archibald Cecil and Kinsey Cecil. At this time the former was married and had two sons under 16 years of age and two daughters, while Kinsey Cecil was married and had one son under 16. At this time there were also living in Frederick County William Cecil, Sr. and William Cecil, Jr. John Cecil was then living in Queen Anne County.

As to the Davis side of the Cecil and Davis families, the family Bible records the issue of James Davis and Anna Cecil as being Thomas Truman Cecil Davis, born March 10, 1800; John Briscoe Davis, born January 14, 1802; Philip Sabret Cecil Davis, born October 14, 1806; Eliza Davis, born January 10, 1809; Sabret Cecil Davis, born August 20, 1811; Hezekiah Davis, born September 6, 1813; Samuel Cecil Davis, born February 1816, and Benjamin Davis, born May 18, 1818.

Among the Davises recorded as living in Montgomery County in 1790 are Griffith Davis Ephraim, Forrest, three persons by the name of Charles and Baxter, Jeremiah, William, John, John V., Joseph, Levi, Lodowick, Mary, Morris, Nathan, Robert, Thomas and Walter Davis.

Benjamin Davis, who lived in the little log house which originally stood near Carroll and Garland avenues, died 35 or 40 years ago, when what was left of his farm, except the cemeterial plot, was sold to Mr. Thompson, who removed the little house to Greenwood avenue, where it now stands near the old apple orchard which once belonged to the Davis family. Later it was weatherboarded over the logs and remains in this disguised way today.

Early in his life Benjamin Davis, who was born in 1818, as stated, was a miller at the old Riggs mill, which is still standing on the Riggs road, and generally known by that name, though it is more correctly the Adelphia Mill. It is a picturesque old

structure and received its supply of water, when in operation years ago, from the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River, which crosses the road at this point. Today this stream compares with Rock Creek, though it was much larger a century ago - and so was Rock Creek.

Sometime ago the writer referred to this old mill but since it is as interesting now as it was then, he makes no apology for repeating himself in this story. Indeed it is well worth a walk out there to see, and will be readily recognized by the State marker which reads:

Adelphia Mill

This old grist mill, built in the summer of 1796, probably by two brothers, Issacher and Mahon Scofield. In 1811 the mill was also used for wool carding. The miller's cottage is of the same period.

The mill is about 50 feet front by 60 feet depth. It is one story under ground and two stories above the level, and the walls, which time has failed to destroy are still fairly well intact. Above the walls there was originally a superstructure of wood covered by a hip roof containing one full story and an attic beneath the sloping shingle root and the ridgepole.

"The Rambler," the writer's predecessor in writing these stories for The Star, who died February 12, 1923, and whose real name was J. Harry Shannon, visited this old mill in the spring of 1914. and then met H. T. Freeman, who was residing in an old brick house nearby. The interview between "The Rambler" and Mr. Freeman brought out the following interesting comments:

"That he was born there in 1857 and had lived there all the years since. His father, William H. Freeman, lived there all his life, and his grandfather, Thomas Scheckles, lived there before him. He said that he understood that the mill was built about 150 years ago. The date of the erection of the mill had been rudely put into the stone of the foundation, but a long while ago it had been so mutilated by some boys from the Agricultural College that it could not now be deciphered.

He had learned from his father, who got it from his father and mother, that an English family named Scofield moved into that part of the country a good many years before the American Revolution and built the brick house on the hill, the stone house opposite, and then the mill. It was operated as Scofield's Mill. Then another English family by the name of Logan acquired the property and the place was long known as Logan's Mill. The property was next taken over by the Riggs family, and sometime before the Civil War, it came to be known as Riggs Mill. The milling business in that part of the country began to languish with the development of the great milling industry in the West, but the mill continued to struggle on for existence until a few years since."

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IN 1790 there was a Mrs. Casandra Chew, living in Montgomery County, who had two daughters and four slaves. At that time there were also residing in the same county Abraham Sheckles, two John Sheckles and two Richard Sheckles. Samuel Sheckles was then a resident of Prince Georges County, as were Joseph Schoolfied, his wife, six sons and two daughters. Any of these might have been related to the early settlers around the Adelphi Mill, mentioned by "The Rambler."

Naturally, there was once a large number of residents in this part of Montgomery County when operations at the Adelphi Mill were at their height, but at the time of the Civil War the population of Bladensburg district, in which it was located, showed a decided increase, and by 1879, according to Hopkins' plat book, a considerable population was noted, and we find residing near the mill or owning property in that neighborhood, John Tomey, William H. Freeman, Columbus Chew, and George W. Riggs, and those who were interested in the land lying west of the Northwest Branch, to the District of Columbia and Montgomery County lines, in the general vicinity of "Green Hill," were William Metzerott, P. P. Gross, F. L. and W. B. Jackson, L. H. Brown's store, Johnson, John Powell, Albert Charles, John Steiner (near another old mill), Andrew Powell, George Neitzey, Robert Brown, James Brown, Canfield, John Joy (manager for Mr. Riggs), Thomas Brown, J. E. Ray, Albert Gleason, William Sibley, Thomas Miller, Mrs. Morrell, John Morrell, Lewis Maurath, William R. McChesney, Amos W. Souder, Thomas Murphy, John Miller, John T. Barnes, Washington E. Nalley, John Miller, James Miller H. Hiden, Daniel Mehring, Arthur Cosack and John Saulsman.

In seeking information about the Cecil Plantation, the old estate of the Davis family, the writer concluded this was probably the land surveyed for Col. Henry Darnal in 1688, and called Girls portion, or that it was carved out of the vast Carroll estate. The Darnall tract, according to early records, extended from Rock Creek, eastward to O. H. P. Clark's farm, 3 3/16 miles, and we are told "the Ashton and Sligo Turnpike passes through the estate, and that the Brookville and Washington Turnpike crosses it." The Blair estate, known as "Silver Spring" was included in this survey.

Sligo Branch apparently passed through the Davis property, and the writer found that, in 1878, the following persons owned property between this stream and the Burnt Mill road to the north, and from the old Ashton and Colesville turnpike to the east, to the Prince Georges County line to the west, namely: Olive P. Clark, Mrs. Clark, Montgomery Blair, Columbus Joy, Charles Montgomery, Samuel Filius, William Beall, Frank Gettings, John Montgomery, Samuel R. Priest and Benjamin Davis.

At this same period from the south side of Sligo Branch to the District line were the following property holders: William H. Thompson, J. L. Dorsey, Charles

Stewart, Washington Bonifant, Hy. Nolton, N. Tyler, Benjamin Schuder, Montgomery Blair, Samuel Fenton, C. H. Breshear, William Talbott, Perry Collins, Mrs. M. Blair, Thomas Jones and Daniel Mehrling.

The way Washington is developing in every available direction makes it most interesting to those who are old enough to look backward for just a few decades over this whole region, and in this respect Takoma Park is no exception for it is really hard to realize what vast changes have taken place in this area in what seems to be only a brief space of time.

According to Guy Clinton, who has written of the site of Takoma Park before that town was laid out, in this neighborhood lived the Bladens, the Hagens and the Cockerilles, and there were the farms of the Jones, the Naughtons and the Hodges. He also further identifies the Bladens by saying that they had a market garden and tells us that Dr. Cockerille was a Washington dentist. He also speaks particularly of Gen. S. S. Carroll and of the blacksmith shop of the Rapleys over beyond the Sligo.

In the early days of Washington the streams that were farmed in the District of Columbia, as well as those which entered the District by way of Maryland, were far more enchanting and majestic than they are today. The beautiful Tiber and its tributaries have long since been converted into sewers - that is what remains of them. Piney Branch has suffered the same fate, while the supply of water flowing into Rock Creek has been considerably reduced. Sligo Branch or Sligo Run, as it is also called, and which flows through a part of Takoma, still retains much of its beauty, but even here its volume has been greatly reduced and the stream is gradually becoming smaller all the time as the country adjacent to it is being built up and the water from the surrounding country finds its way into sewers instead of flowing into this stream. Hence it is not the same Sligo the early settlers of Takoma knew it to be nor does it retain the same charm as in days of yore.

Maj. Gist Blair in his "Annals of Silver Spring," tells us of the road his grandfather built for his grandmother along this stream, for the Blairs were of the earliest settlers of this vicinity, and their property included a part of Takoma Park. Maj. Blair says:

"My grandmother, Violet Gist, for whom I was named - a tall, strong-looking old lady - rode horseback every morning until a few days before her death, when she was 82 and her spirit should linger along that winding roadway which follows Sligo Branch, now where the Seventh-day Adventists have a great sanitarium. This was opened for her to ride horseback through these woods long before the Civil War and extended about 7 miles, almost entirely on the Silver Spring property."

208 CECIL-DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

For years the old Sligo Mill was one of the landmarks of Takoma Park. From 1824 to 1826 it was rented to Charles King. Tubman rented it previous to 1831, when it was rented by Faw. In 1833 Pearce Pumphrey rented it, and John Briscoe Davis leased it in 1839, and until 1845, and likely afterward.

One of the earliest and most important improvements made in Takoma Park was the sanitarium erected there in 1889, of which The Star said:

"One of the most important of the many improvements now under way is the sanitarium soon to be erected by R. C. Flower of Boston. Its location will be on the higher grounds in the northern end of the park, and so situated that the Sligo will wind around the foot of the elevation on which the main building will be placed."

In 1908 Prof. Louis Denton Bliss purchased the North Takoma Hotel property, containing 160 rooms. This building was erected in 1892 and after it had been remodeled and equipped to suit the purposes of the school, it was occupied and work begun there as a residence institution for the Bliss Electrical School. However, on the night of November 6, 1908, when the school had occupied the structure but a few months, the entire plant was wiped out by fire, one of the most costly conflagrations Takoma ever had. New quarters were soon begun, and the following year one wing of the present administration building was erected.

This institution had its beginning in 1893, when Prof. Bliss opened his electrical school in the Warder Building, at the southeast corner of Ninth and F streets northwest, where stood in the early days the home of George C. Whiting, for whom a Masonic lodge in this city was named.

At first there was a small class of but 20 students, mostly from the Census Office. From this building the school moved to 219 G Street, where it remained until it moved to Takoma Park.

Among the more celebrated graduates of this school was the late C. Francis Jenkins, who graduated in the second class. From the very first this inventive genius believed a machine could be produced which could project a life-size picture.

His facilities were limited, but he soon built a small machine in a washstand, while the school was still being conducted at the Ninth and F street address. Soon afterward, the machine being perfected, he was able to throw upon the wall of the school a life-sized motion picture of a dancing girl. His invention became fundamental to the military and his patents most valuable.

Another institution which has had much to do with the development of Takoma

Park is that of the Seventh-day Adventists, who in the summer of 1903 purchased some 45 acres of land through which runs the Sligo.

ENGINEERS CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned **FRANCIS T LATIMER** hereby certify to the following:

1 THAT the lots, blocks, public highways etc. indicated on this plat have been carefully and accurately surveyed and plotted at the request of **HARVEY A MORRISON & VERA E MORRISON** the owners and makers of this plat and that they are a subdivision of that tract of land called "Kilmarnock" also a parcel which is a part of the Samuel Fenton farm, which was conveyed from Best Seek and Louise A Seek, his wife to **HARVEY A MORRISON & VERA E MORRISON** his wife by deed recorded among the Land Records of Montgomery County Mar 21, 1923 in Liber 318 at folio 351, which excepts therefrom one fourth of an acre contained in the graveyard and

a THAT the "one fourth of an acre contained in the graveyard" is not a part of the subdivision, but is shown for convenience only, and

2 THAT the lines of this subdivision do not conflict with any other subdivision heretofore made and recorded among Montgomery County Land Records, and

3 THAT monument stones designated on the plat as Stones No 1 & 2 have been accurately set so as to appear on the surface and extend into the ground not less than three (3) feet below the surface and that the said stones are not less than six (6) inches in minimum dimension on top, and

4 THAT the bearings other than the deed reference bearings are referred to the true meridian of the Washington Suburban Sanitary District, as established therefor by the U.S.C.&G. Survey.

FRANCIS T LATIMER SURVEYOR

OWNERS DEDICATION

This **DECLARATION OF DEDICATION** made this [illegible] day of [illegible], in the year Nineteen Hundred and Twenty Four,

WITNESSETH, that we **HARVEY A MORRISON** and **VERA E MORRISON** of Montgomery County, Maryland, being the owners have caused to be surveyed and platted the tract of land shown upon this plat as set forth in the Engineer's Certification hereon, and by the filing and recording of this plat and the execution of these presents do subdivide the land into Lots, Blocks and Public Highways as shown hereon to be known as **SECTION 5, FLOWER AVE PARK**, and dedicate the said highways for public use for any lawful purpose whatever,

AND do further hereby declare and establish perpetually the building restriction lines as hereon indicated as the line beyond which the erection of any building, porch thereof or other structure of a permanent nature exceeding four (4) feet vertically is restricted,

AND do further hereby direct the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Maryland, to file and record this plat after its approval in due form by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE, the said **HARVEY A MORRISON** and **VERA E MORRISON**, of Montgomery County, Maryland, have signed these presents the day and year first above written

WITNESS

Emma L. Lowe

Harvey A. Morrison

Vera E. Morrison

APPROVED JULY 18, 1924

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

T. Howard Duckett

Robert Bruce

FILED

Received 10/7/00

Coil

208

Coil Davis Family Cemetery
7911 Greenwood Ave.
Takoma Park

Historic Takoma, Inc.

PO Box 5781 ❖ Takoma Park, MD ❖ 20913
"Preserving the Heritage of the Takoma Communities"
301-270-1700 ext. 662

October 6, 2000

Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc.
Attn: Jean Keenan
4424 Keenan Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Dear Ms. Keenan:

I've been referred to you by Susan Soderberg of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission. I contacted the Commission regarding the cemetery which is the subject of the enclosed article from the August, 1937 *Washington Star* newspaper (I apologize for the poor quality of the copy; it was made from a poor original). Since I am descended from a Davis family which lived in Montgomery County, I have a specific interest in determining whether any of my ancestors are buried in this cemetery.

I recently located the cemetery, which is situated in Silver Spring just outside the Takoma Park City limits. I spoke to the current property owner, who purchased the site several years ago from a Dorothy Davis. The current owner contends that the site is not a cemetery and that he pays property taxes on the property as a residential lot. He was aware of the 1937 newspaper article but says that he has never seen any evidence that the site was used for burials. I have second hand information from two older residents from that neighborhood, who recall that the property is indeed a cemetery.

I am concerned that this site might be developed and the cemetery obliterated. What is the process for having a site designated as a cemetery? What is the law in the State of Maryland concerning cemeteries? Any information that you can provide would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jack Carson

Jack Carson
Treasurer
301-270-2096,
tymetraveller@att.net

Historic Takoma, Inc.

PO Box 5781 ❖ Takoma Park, MD ❖ 20913
"Preserving the Heritage of the Takoma Communities"
301-270-1700 ext. 662

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CECIL-DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

November 10, 2000

Coalition To Protect MD Burial Sites
Attn: Kristin Kraske
9425 Dartmouth Rd.
Columbia, MD 21045-1808

Dear Kristin:

Thank you for sending me the laws in MD regarding burial sites. Enclosed please find a check in the amount of $25. Please register Historic Takoma, Inc. as a member of the Coalition, under the address on this letterhead, and also send me a copy of your Preservation Kit.

I've enclosed a copy of a 1937 newspaper article describing the Takoma Park abandoned cemetery in which I am interested. The current property owner denies that the site is a burial site. I am hoping to get the property recognized as a burial site by the appropriate county and state authorities.

Sincerely,

Jack Carson

Jack Carson
Treasurer

208 LELIE DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

Phone Conversation Log

Date 10/17/00

Spoke with: Jack Carson

Of: takoma Park

Phone # (301) 270-2096

Who initiated contact? Kristin

Discussion topic(s)

Possible burial ground in Silver Spring/TP. Owner claims it was never gravesite (certified" by previous owner). Other evidence says it was Davis family plot (newspaper, neighbor, etc).

Notes:

700 Auburn Ave
Takoma Park, MD 20912

- Copies of laws and brochure, wants these

Told to call and ask B. Sieg about getting it designated / on tax map

Initial KLK

[Photocopy as many as needed]

WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 8, 1937

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CECIL - DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

GRAVEYARD LINK IN HISTORY

Area Is Probably Last Resting Place of Some Prominent Citizens of Montgomery County—Well-Kept Garden in Present Condition—Early Takoma Park.

By John Clagett Proctor.

IN THE early days there were many private burial plots in and around Washington, which were here when the Capital was moved to this location in 1800, and some of these could be identified for a considerable number of years afterward. One of the most notable of these was the Burnes' graveyard, which stood on the south side of H street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, about where is now the Printcraft Building, and here was the famous Van Ness Mausoleum until 1872, when it was removed to Oak Hill Cemetery.

However, although so many of the early burial places hereabout are known, still, occasionally suspicion of an unknown one bobs up, as was recently the case when an excavation was being made in downtown Seventh street, and a human skull was unearthed. In this case there was no record of a burial place in this particular location, and it is quite probable the skull was brought to this spot from some nearby graveyard, or it might have been just a part of a homo specimen.

But once in a while a hitherto unknown graveyard does show up, and proves very interesting, as one the writer recently investigated in response to a letter addressed to the Editor of The Star, in which the author said:

"Being a constant reader of The Star ever since I can remember, and quite interested in unusual and quaint things and doings or customs of bygone days, my eye caught this little clipping I am inclosing with my letter in Thursday or Friday evening's Star. It is interesting to me, because I have in my care an old family burial plot, dating back many many years in the past, and all the markings of the graves have been done in the manner mentioned in this clipping, by my ancestors. I am making this a sort of pastime or hobby, if it may be called that. When I came into possession of this piece of ground, it was covered with old brambles and honeysuckle, weeds and, indeed, most everything had covered the entire one-quarter acre; with great care and lots of work I have made it over into a pretty nice park. I thought maybe Mr. John Clagett Proctor might be interested. I read his writings every Sunday and they are quite interesting to me. I have the deed to the property and other information, should any one be interested and would like to call and see me. Most sincerely,

"J. A. DAVIS,
"901 Prospect avenue,
"Takoma Park, Md."

The clipping referred to by Mr. Davis, as taken from The Star, follows:

"MARKING OLD GRAVES."

"There is a burying ground near Webster, Mass., in which the graves are marked with field stones; large ones indicate old men and the small ones young men."

WHEN the writer called on Mr. Davis, whose home and cemetery are at the corner of Prospect and Greenwood avenues, at the extreme north end of Takoma Park, Md., he found a man much fascinated by the work he has been doing—in beautifying and caring for the graves of some of his early ancestors.

Mr. Davis is not an old man, or for this reason we might attribute his great reverence for the dead, but to him caring for this sacred plot is a matter of sentiment, aroused, perhaps, by the fact that he inherited the one-quarter acre of ground, upon which also stands his home, from an uncle, who stipulated that this particular piece of land should always remain in the family.

According to Mr. Davis, in all there are about 125 persons buried in this plot, and this includes his great-grandfather and great-grandmother, Hezekiah Davis and wife.

At an early date the farm hereabout, which must have been of considerable acreage, was known as the Cecil Plantation, having been inherited by Anna Cecil, who, according to the family Bible, married James Davis, May 5, 1799, and Scharf, in his "History of Western Maryland," practically substantiates this in his Montgomery County records, where he records the issuing of a marirage license to James Davis and Anney Cisell, April 25, 1799.

The parents of Anna Cecil, who was born July 12, 1775, were Gabriel and Mary Cecil, and beside Anna, the children of the latter included: Samuel Cecil, born October 4, 1752; Eleanor Cecil, born April 19, 1754; John Cecil, born October 9, 1757; James Cecil, born February 8, 1759; William Cecil, January 31, 1761; Mary Cecil, born January 31, 1763; Jemima Cecil, born November 25, 1766; Thomas Cecil, born March 20, 1771, and Anna, who married James Davis.

THE age of this burial plot (there apparently being no records to go by) is believed to run back at least as far as 1734, and that the Cecil family lived somewhere in this neighborhood at that time. Indeed, not long since, James A. Davis, who lives on the place, found a confirmation certificate issued to Mary Cecil during the year mentioned, by the then rector of St. Paul's Church, more generally known as Rock Creek Church, and she was probably the mother of Gabriel Cecil, who was the father of Anna, who married James Davis. This certificate is now one of the prized relics in the library of the Washington Cathedral.

The family home dates back to a very old one in Maryland history, and the writer was able to pick up at random the name of Joshua Cecil, who is mentioned as living in Calvert County as early as 1695, though it is likely the family was among the pioneer settlers, for there was a known friendship between the Calverts and the Cecils before the charter of Maryland was issued to George Calvert, the then Lord Baltimore, June 20, 1632.

The friendship between these two families is said to have been increased when Sir Robert Cecil, Queen Elizabeth's principal secretary of state, later recommended George Calvert as clerk of the Privy Council of King James, and, though George Calvert never came to America, having died before the execution of the patent to Maryland, named in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, yet his son, Cecil Calvert—undoubtedly named in honor of his friend, Sir Robert Cecil—did settle here as history so notably records. Of course, Cecil County, in the Northeastern part of the State, is named either for some member of the Cecil family or for Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore.

In glancing over the first United States census, for 1790, but two heads of families of the name Cecil were found then living in Montgomery County, Md., these being Archibald Cecil and Kinsey Cecil. At this time the former was married and had two sons under 16 years of age and two daughters, while Kinsey Cecil was married and had one son under 16. At this time there were also living in Frederick County William Cecil, sr., and William Cecil, jr. John Cecil was then living in Queen Anne County.

AS TO the Davis side of the Cecil and Davis families, the family Bible records the issue of James Davis and Anna Cecil as being Thomas Truman Cecil Davis, born March 10, 1800; John Briscoe Davis, born January 14, 1802; Philip Sabret Cecil Davis, born October 14, 1806; Eliza Davis, born January 10, 1809; Sabret Cecil Davis, born August 20, 1811; Hezekiah Davis, born September 6, 1813; Samuel Cecil Davis, born February, 1816, and Benjamin Davis, born May 28, 1818.

Among the Davises recorded as living in Montgomery County in 1790 are Griffith Davis Ephraim, Forrest, three persons by the name of Charles and Baxter, Jeremiah, William, John, John V., Joseph, Levi, Lodowick, Mary, Morris, Nathan, Robert, Thomas and Walter Davis.

Benjamin Davis, who lived in the little log house which originally stood near Carroll and Garland avenues, died 35 or 40 years ago, when what was left of his farm, except the cemeterial plot, was sold to Mr. Thompson, who removed the little house to Greenwood avenue, where it now stands near the old apple orchard which once belonged to the Davis family. Later it was weatherboarded over the logs, and remains in this disguised way today.

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LEWIS DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

For more information on this cemetery, please contact:

Jack Carson
700 Auburn Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

E-mail: tymetraveller@att.net

From Jack Carson 12/3/08
301-270-2096

Thomas "Mike" Welsh is in total denial of existence of a cemetery on his property. In 2002 Jack gave him land records research, the 1937 article, + possibly affidavit. TW has been aggressive with researchers, Dick O'Connor →

Phone discussion with Mike Welsh on December 10, 2008

Main points

- Appreciated information I sent him that included the affidavit, title deed notes, newspaper article, and plat.
- Claims the Mr. Davis in the newspaper article was mentally disabled as a result of WWI and that what he said in the article should not be trusted.
- Wonders why the cemetery was never recorded by the County (I told him that County did not require it)
- Claims layout of the cemetery was not delineated.
- Asked why the caretaker then would build a house and garden on the cemetery when he is supposed to be a "caretaker" of the property.
- Mr. Welsh has been gardening including the planting of trees in that area for about 30 years. If there is a burial ground then why hasn't he come across any gravestones or bones (especially if 125 people were buried there)?
- Wants to know if Jane Cromer is still alive.
- Under what circumstances did Ms. Cromer give the affidavit? Was she of sound mind?
- Jack Carson introduced himself as a historian and then later as a possible descendent of the Davis family. Doesn't that make him biased?
- Mr. Welsh said that maybe he should talk to his lawyer again and straighten this all out.

Mary A. van Balgooy
Executive Director
Peerless Rockville

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CECIL DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

Phone discussion with Mike Welsh on December 10, 2008.

Main points:

- Appreciated information I sent him that included the affidavit, title deed notes, newspaper article, and plat.
- Claims the Mr. Davis in the newspaper article was mentally disabled as a result of WWI and that what he said in the article should not be trusted.
- Wonders why the cemetery was never recorded by the County (I told him that County did not require it)
- Claims layout of the cemetery was not delineated.
- Asked why the caretaker then would build a house and garden on the cemetery when he is supposed to be a "caretaker" of the property.
- Mr. Welsh has been gardening including the planting of trees in that area for about 30 years. If there is a burial ground then why hasn't he come across any gravestones or bones (especially if 125 people were buried there)?
- Wants to know if Jane Cromer is still alive.
- Under what circumstances did Ms. Cromer give the affidavit? Was she of sound mind?
- Jack Carson introduced himself as a historian and then later as a possible descendent of the Davis family. Doesn't that make him biased?
- Mr. Welsh said that maybe he should talk to his lawyer again and straighten this all out.

Mary A. van Balgooy
Executive Director
Peerless Rockville

Email to Jack Carson 8-10-02

208
CELIE - DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

Hello from Maine,

Thanks for sending me the Proctor article (and double thanks for "transcribing" it) and the affidavit.

I enjoyed reading the information and hope my comments will help. It's good also to know the origin of Flower Avenue and that Francis Jenkins graduated from Bliss.

Here's what I can offer:

Think of this as a jigsaw puzzle for which you do not have the ultimate picture. You must search for pieces in a variety of places and figure out how they fit together.

You need to do a time line/chronology of ownership of the cemetery property. You want to end up with a name and the dates of ownership. For this you'll do a title search, starting from the current owner and going backward. Have someone skilled in Land Records help you. Along the way, you may get into Wills or Judgment Records, a boon to obtaining details about the property. You are looking for some language that reserves the burying ground for the family. (There are vague references to the existence of that in what you sent to me.) The Land Records of Montgomery County (which go back to 1777) are located at the Judicial Center in Rockville. MCHS has abstracts of early deeds in its library. I believe this is the single most important thing you can do, short of actually finding gravestones on the site.

At Register of Wills (also at Judicial Center), look up each major owner and hope to find reference in his/her will to the cemetery.

Same with Tax Records. At MCHS, check out Eleanor Cook's Guide to Records in Montgomery County for location. (It changes depending upon years.)

The sources I mentioned to you that are at MCHS library: cemetery surveys by Linda Layman and Janet Manuel, that 1908 book, return to Scharf (but know he didn't look at the site).

You might spend time at MCHS with the genealogy.... Sometimes descendants will note where their ancestors are buried. Pat Andersen at MCHS is great with this.

Radar/sonar: This is expensive and not always fruitful. I'm not convinced it has much value, but.... Alternatively, if you can get permission from the owner, take a metal probe and push in about 3-5 feet and listen for a clunk. Walk the property with everyone who will join you and pick their brains. Jim Sorensen, MNCPPC archeologist, is a good person to invite out there.

Let me know how you do and what you find. Needless to say, you should keep notes on places you looked and what you did and did not find. Keep Liber and Folio references for Land Records, for instance, as you may want to return to them later. And you can obtain copies from the Judicial Center.

Good luck!!!!

Eileen

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CECIL-DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

Cecil-Davis
cemetery
Takoma Park

Subj: **Re: Request**
Date: 9/29/2002 11:42:37 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: tymetraveller@att.net (Jack Carson)
To: PHILEEN2@cs.com

> Could you please clone a few Dorothy Bameses and ship them to Rockville?
>
> Thank you,
> Eileen

If only it were within my power to do so, and to keep her fixed in time. :) I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed my friendship with her over the past several years. Every time I'm with her I'm treated to some oral history about Takoma and the DC area in general.

I've scrutinized the two deeds we copied concerning the Davis Cemetery. One puzzle is that the 1847 deed transfers 226 acres in four lots from multiple Davis' to Mary Davis, Hezekiah Davis, and Benjamin Davis. Presumably, the cemetery is on one of these lots but it is not mentioned in the deed and it is not possible for me to tell from the lot descriptions which lot it is on. In 1863 Benjamin Davis alone transfers 68 7/8 acres to a John Myers excluding the cemetery, which is reserved "in fee simple". This property does not match any of the four lots described in the '47 deed. Did Mary, Hezekiah, and Benjamin re-divide the four lots between them? What happened to Mary and Hezekiah Davis in the '63 deed? Why aren't they mentioned as owners?

Land Records

Another puzzle. The tax info shows that the house on the cemetery lot was built in 1933. But the 1937 Washington Star article makes no mention of it and James Davis, who is the subject of the '37 article, signed his letter to the Star as residing at 901 Prospect St. (this is what threw me off and why we did our deed search based on this address). How, why, and when did the house get built on the cemetery and why isn't it mentioned in the '37 article and why in '37 is James Davis living next door and not on the cemetery itself in the '33 house? Why would the Davis family let a house be built on the cemetery grounds in the first place, possibly covering over ancient grave sites?

Assessment records
@ MCHS + Oakmont
- 1930s
- earlier

Genealogy files @ MCHS

Wills + inventories

Judgment Records,
Equity suits?

Leonard Becraft?

I'm going to try to get up to Rockville again soon to do the deed search for the actual cemetery lot at 7911 Greenwood Ave. Are you game for another round? If so, I'd like for you to coach but for me to do the actual work.

I've decided not to contact the current property owner until after my deed research concerning the actual cemetery lot is complete.

Thanks for everything, Eileen. You are special, too.

– Jack

Headers
Return-Path: <tymetraveller@att.net>

Cecil-Davis cemetery
Takoma Park

208 CECIL-DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

Subj: **Re: Transfer**
Date: 10/13/2002 9:42:02 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: tymetraveller@att.net (Jack Carson)
To: PHILEEN2@cs.com

It appears that the last Davis (Dorothy Williams) got a friend to conspire to strip the deed of these references. The way they did it was to have the friend sign a contract to buy the property for $500 and then renege on the deal, claiming that Dorothy didn't have clear title. Dorothy then sues the friend and asks the court to declare that Dorothy has clear title and that the covenant restricting ownership to the Davis family is illegal. The court agrees on both counts. The court declares the restrictive covenant to be a violation of the MD Perpetuities Act, whatever that is. The reference in the deed concerning the property being a graveyard is NOT brought up in the court case. The court orders the friend to go through with the sales contract. One week after this court judgment is issued the friend conveys the property back to Dorothy for no consideration, and bingo, any reference to the property being a graveyard has disappeared from this new deed. Two years later Dorothy sells the property to Thomas Welsh for $112,000. Very clever. I suspect Dorothy's lawyer came up with this scheme. Why anyone would want to sell out their ancestors like this is beyond me.

– Jack

> Good old Compuserve.
>
> Did the case suggest reasons for wanting those references gone? Or any
> description of the property? e.g., can't see any graves....
>
> Thank you for your suggestions re MPI. I will pass it along to them powers
> that be.
>
> Eileen
>

* see Land Records – Jack has copies

- Plats 4/400 and 4/366 *
- Land Record 8526/775 refers to Civil Case #33301

——————— Headers ———————

Return-Path: <tymetraveller@att.net>
Received: from rly-st06.mail.aol.com (rly-st06.mail.aol.com [172.20.75.164]) by air-yb05.mail.aol.com (v89.10) with ESMTP id MAILINYB51-1013214202; Sun, 13 Oct 2002 21:42:02 -0400
Received: from rly-xi03.mx.aol.com (rly-xi03.mail.aol.com [172.20.116.8])
by rly-st06.mail.aol.com (8.8.8/8.8.8/AOL-5.0.0)
with ESMTP id VAA15453 for <phileen2@cs.com>;
Sun, 13 Oct 2002 21:39:35 -0400 (EDT)
Received: from mtiwmhc12.worldnet.att.net (mtiwmhc12.worldnet.att.net [204.127.131.116]) by rly-xi03.mx.aol.com (v89.10) with ESMTP id MAILRELAYINXI34-1013213859; Sun, 13 Oct 2002 21:38:59 -0400
Received: from hppav ([12.92.110.194]) by mtiwmhc12.worldnet.att.net
(InterMail vM.5.01.05.12 201-253-122-126-112-20020820) with SMTP
id <20021014013850.FYNM6348.mtiwmhc12.worldnet.att.net@hppav>
for <PHILEEN2@cs.com>; Mon, 14 Oct 2002 01:38:50 +0000
Message-ID: <001401c27322$bff85340$c26e5c0c@hppav>
From: "Jack Carson" <tymetraveller@att.net>
To: <PHILEEN2@cs.com>
References: <72.243f8bf0.2adb1f75@cs.com>

Field-Davis Cem in T.P.

208 LEGIL DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY 7911 GREENWOOD AVE. TAKOMA PARK

Date: 2/13/2003 12 29 58 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: tymetraveller@att net (Jack Carson)
To: doug@davswamennn com (Doug Harbit)

Doug – thanks for the reply and the explanation of HPC policies regarding graveyards. As time permits I will put together a package for the HPC attorney to look at. The clause in the deed limiting ownership to the "Davis family" did not specify a specific branch of the family. This clause was declared invalid in the 1980s civil action case.

There is a state law that offers protections for graveyards, but the existence of the graveyard must be recognized by the appropriate authorities. A court case to reinstate the graveyard designation in the official property description would be a major step in that direction. There is also an organization which advocates preservation of graveyards – The Coalition to Protect MD Burial Sites – and I have included its president (Kristin Kraske) on the cc line to this reply.

Dick O'Connor has indicated that any court case to correct errors made in the civil case would be on strongest grounds by having an heir as plaintiff. He didn't think you would have strong standing as a plaintiff. A preservation organization like Historic Takoma could possibly serve as plaintiff, but an heir would be best. I was hoping that the HPC would serve as plaintiff, but that seems very unlikely given the current policy regarding graveyards. I have a lead on an heir but haven't been able to confirm his relationship to the Davises. I haven't had time to try to track down Mark's genealogy, or complete my own for that matter. Genealogical research is very tedious and time consuming, with lots of dead ends. My next effort in this regard will focus on census records at the Mont. Co. Hist. Society.

There remain three significant obstacles to overcome in the preservation of the graveyard:
1. Locating an entity with "standing" willing to press a court case to have the property once again recognized as a graveyard in official records.
2. Identifying a source of funds for financing a court case.
3. Identifying an entity who would accept responsibility for maintaining (and possibly owning) the graveyard in perpetuity.
Right now I'm focusing on item #1. Until a credible plaintiff is found items #2 & #3 are moot.
– Jack

—— Original Message From: Doug Harbit
To: 'Jack Carson' Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2003 12:54 AM
Jack- The issue with the HPC is not that we are not interested, it is that graveyards are not included as historic sites under the county legislation that created the HPC. Whenever there is a graveyard on a site that is otherwise historic (because of a building), the HPC always goes out of our way to do everything that we can to protect and preserve the graveyard. We get away with doing that because the graveyard is part of the "environmental setting" for the historic building over which we do have jurisdiction. So please understand that it is not that the HPC is unsympathetic, it is just that we do not have jurisdiction over free-standing graveyards.

–Original Message—— From: Jack Carson [mailto:tymetraveller@att.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2003 8:27 PM To: Doug Harbit
Doug – on Wed. morning I had a phone conversation with Clare Cavicchi, a staff member of Mont. Co.'s Historic Preservation Commission. She was responding to my inquiry concerning whether the HPC would assist in efforts to preserve the Davis Family Cemetery. She said that the HPC has no jurisdiction in this matter, since the HPC does not recognize cemeteries as historic sites. This is essentially the same response I received from the HPC's Susan Soderberg about a year ago. Clare did offer to have the HPC legal staff look over the 1980s civil action which stripped the graveyard language reference from the property description, to see what they thought about the legality of what was done. Do you think there is any point in having the HPC attorneys look it over if the HPC has no interest in getting involved? Dick O'Connor has already examined the files and has concluded there is a good chance a court challenge may result in the reinstatement of the graveyard language to the property description.
- Jack

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TAKOMA PARK

Hello Eileen –

Here is a 1937 *Washington Star* article about the Cecil/Davis Cemetery in Takoma Park. I apologize for the poor quality of the original, and have included a typewritten reproduction of the text to make for easier reading. I've also included a copy of a notarized statement I obtained from Jane Cromer in December of 2000, who remembers the cemetery while growing up in the neighborhood.

If you have any additional thoughts about how I can go about establishing the existence of this cemetery, please share them with me. Also, if you'd be interested in viewing the site let me know and I'll see if I can set it up with the property owner.

Thanks,

Jack

Sonar/radar

Flower Ave – origin of name
Francis Jenkins

TO Check

Land Records – do title search – Set up names & dates of ownership
Reg of Wills – for
Tax Records
MCHS cem – Janet Manual, Linda Layman, Schary, 1908 book

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TAKOMA PARK

AFFIDAVIT

Cemetery located at Greenwood and Prospect Avenues in Takoma Park, MD

I, Jane Lutes Cromer, observed evidence of a cemetery located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Greenwood and Prospect Avenues in Takoma Park, Maryland.

During the period 1921-1975, I resided at 8214 (formerly 814) Flower Ave. and at 8208 (formerly 808) Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, MD, located less than three blocks from Greenwood and Prospect Avenues. On numerous occasions in the early part of this period, I passed by this property and I observed its appearance as a burial site, including the presence of several small headstones.

Jane Lutes Cromer
Signature

Jane Lutes Cromer
4612 Cherry Valley Drive
Rockville, MD 20853

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in the State of Maryland, this 8 day of December, in the year 2000

Elayne E Hallein
Notary Public
Com exp 3/1/01

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CECIL - DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

From the Washington Star, August 8, 1937
by John Clagett Proctor

In the early days there were many private burial plots in and around Washington, which were here when the Capital was moved to this location in 1800, and some of these could be identified for a considerable number of years afterward. One of the most notable of these was the Burnes' graveyard, which stood on the south side of H Street between Ninth and Tenth streets, about where is now the Printcraft Building, and here was the famous Van Ness Mausoleum until 1872 when it was moved to the Oak Hill Cemetery.

However, although so many of the early burial places hereabout are known, still, occasionally suspicion of an unknown one bobs up, as was recently the case when an excavation was being made in downtown Seventh street, and a human skull was unearthed. In this case there was no record of burial place in this particular location, and it is quite probable the skull was brought to this spot from some nearby graveyard, or it might have been just a part of a homo specimen.

But once in a while a hitherto unknown graveyard does show up, and proves very interesting, as one the writer recently investigated in response to a letter addressed to the Editor of The Star, in which the author said:
"Being a constant reader of The Star ever since I can remember, and quite interested in unusual and quaint things and doings or customs of bygone days, my eye caught this little clipping I am inclosing with my letter in Thursday or Friday evening's Start. It is interesting to me, because I have in my car an old family burial plot, dating back many, many years in the past, and all the marking of the graves have been done in the manner mentioned in this clipping, by my ancestors. I am making this a sort of pastime or hobby, if it may be called that. When I came into possession of this piece of ground, it was covered with old brambles and honeysuckle, weeds and , indeed, most everything had covered the entire on-quarter acre; with great care and lots of work I have made it over into a pretty nice park. I thought maybe Mr. John Clagett Proctor might be interested. I read his writings every Sunday and they are quite interesting to me. I have the dead to the property and other information should anyone be interested and would like to call and see me. Most sincerely,

J.A. Davis
"901 Prospect Avenue
Takoma Park, Md."

The clipping referred to by Mr. Davis, as taken from The Star, follows:
"MARKING OLD GRAVES"
"There is a burying ground near Webster, Mass., in which the graves are marked with field stones; large ones indicate old men and the small ones young men."

When the writer called on Mr. Davis, whose home and cemetery are at the corner

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CECIL - DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
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of Prospect and Greenwood avenues at the extreme north end of Takoma Park, Md., he found a man much fascinated by the work he has been doing - in beautifying and caring for the graves of some of his early ancestors.

Mr. Davis is not an old man, or for this reason we might attribute his great reverence for the dead, but to him caring for this sacred plot is a matter of sentiment, aroused, perhaps, by the fact that he inherited the one-quarter acre of ground, upon which also stands his home, from an uncle, who stipulated that this particular piece of land should always remain in the family.

According to Mr. Davis, in al there are about 125 persons buried in this plots, and this includes his great-grandfather and great-grandmother, Hezekiah Davis and wife.

At an early date the farm hereabout, which must have been on considerable acreage, was known as the Cecil Plantation, having been inherited by Anna Cecil, who, according to the family Bible, married James Davis, May 3, 1799, and Scharf, in his "History of Western Maryland," practically substantiates this in his Montgomery County record, where he records the issuing of a marriage license to James Davis and Anney Cisell, April 25, 1799.

The parents of Anna Cecil, who was born July 12, 1772, were Gabriel and Mary Cecil, and beside Anna, the children of the latter included: Samuel Cecil, born October 4, 1752; Eleanor Cecil, born April 19, 1754; John Cecil, born October 9, 1757; James Cecil, born February 8, 1759; William Cecil, born January 31, 1761; Mary Cecil, born January 31, 1763; Jemima Cecil, born November 25, 1766; Thomas Cecil, born March 20, 1771; and Anna, who married James Davis.

The age of this burial plot (there apparently being no records to go by) is believed to run back at least as far as 1734, and that the Cecil family lived somewhere in this neighborhood at that time. Indeed, not long since, James A. Davis, who lives on the place, found a confirmation certificate issued to Mary Cecil during the year mentioned, by the then rector of St. Paul's Church, more generally known as Rock Creek Church, and she was probably the mother of Gabriel Cecil, who was the father of Anna, who married James Davis. This certificate is one of the prized relics in the library of the Washington Cathedral.

The family name is a very old one in Maryland history, and the writer was able to pick at random the name of Joanna Cecil, who was mentioned as living in Calvert County as early as 1695, though it is likely the family was among the pioneer settlers, for there was a known friendship between the Calverts and the Cecils before the charter of Maryland was issued to George Calvert, the then Lord Baltimore, June 20, 1632.

The friendship between these two families is said to have been increased when Sir Robert Cecil, Queen Elizabeth's principal secretary of state, later

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recommended George Calvert as clerk of the Privy Council of King James, and, though George Calvert never came to America, having died before the execution of the patent to Maryland, named in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, yet his son, Cecil Calvert - undoubtedly named in hoonr of his friend, Sir Robert Cecil - did settle here as history so notably records. Of course, Cecil County, in the northeastern part of the State, is named either for some member of the Cecil family or for Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore.

In glancing over the first United States census, for 1790, but two heads of families of the name Cecil were found then living in Montgomery County and these being Archibald Cecil and Kinsey Cecil. At this time the former was married and had two sons under 16 years of age and two daughters, while Kinsey Cecil was married and had one son under 16. At this time there were also living in Frederick County William Cecil, Sr. and William Cecil, Jr. John Cecil was then living in Queen Anne County.

As to the Davis side of the Cecil and Davis families, the family Bible records the issue of James Davis and Anna Cecil as being Thomas Truman Cecil Davis, born March 10, 1800; John Briscoe Davis, born January 14, 1802; Philip Sabret Cecil Davis, born October 14, 1806; Eliza Davis, born January 10, 1809; Sabret Cecil Davis, born August 20, 1811; Hezekiah Davis, born September 6, 1813; Samuel Cecil Davis, born February 1816, and Benjamin Davis, born May 18, 1818

Among the Davises recorded as living in Montgomery County in 1790 are Griffith Davis Ephraim, Forrest, three persons by the name of Charles and Baxter, Jeremiah, William, John, John V., Joseph, Levi, Lodowick, Mary, Morris, Nathan, Robert, Thomas and Walter Davis. [NOTE: This appears just as it did in the Star - Clair Garman]

Benjamin Davis, who lived in the little log house which originally stood near Carroll and Garland avenues, died 35 or 40 years ago, when what was left of his farm, except the cemeterial plot, was sold to Mr. Thompson, who removed the little house to Greenwood avenue, where it now stands near the old apple orchard which once belonged to the Davis family. Later it was weatherboarded over the logs and remains in this disguised way today.

Early in his life Benjamin Davis, who was born in 1818, as stated, was a miller at the old Riggs mill, which is still standing on the Riggs road, and generally known by that name, though it is more correctly the Adelphia Mill. It is a picturesque old structure and received its supply of water, when in operation years ago, from the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River, which crosses the road at this point. Today this stream compares with Rock Creek, though it was much larger a century ago - and so was Rock Creek.

Sometime ago the writer referred to this old mill but since it is as interesting now as it was then, he makes no apology for repeating himself in this story. Indeed it

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CELIC - DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
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is well worth a walk out there to see, and will be readily recognized by the State marker which reads:

Adelphia Mill

This old grist mill, built in the summer of 1796, probably by two brothers, Issacher and Mahon Scofield. In 1811 the mill was also used for wool carding. The miller's cottage is of the same period.

The mill is about 50 feet front by 60 feet depth. It is one story under ground and two stories above the level, and the walls, which time has failed to destroy are still fairly well intact. Above the walls there was originally a superstructure of wood covered by a hip roof containing one full story and an attic beneath the sloping shingle root and the ridgepole.

"The Rambler," the writer's predecessor in writing these stories for The Star, who died February 12, 1923, and whose real name was J. Harry Shannon, visited this old mill in the spring of 1914. and then met H. T. Freeman, who was residing in an old brick house nearby. The interview between "The Rambler" and Mr. Freeman brought out the following interesting comments:

"That he was born there in 1857 and had lived there all the years since. His father, William H. Freeman, lived there all his life, and his grandfather, Thomas Scheckles, lived there before him. He said that he understood that the mill was built about 150 years ago. The date of the erection of the mill had been rudely put into the stone of the foundation, but a long while ago it had been so mutilated by some boys from the Agricultural College that it could not now be deciphered.

He had learned from his father, who got it from his father and mother, that an English family named Scofield moved into that part of the country a good many years before the American Revolution and built the brick house on the hill, the stone house opposite, and then the mill. It was operated as Scofields's Mill. Then another English family by the name of Logan acquired the property and the place was long known as Logan's Mill. The property was next taken over by the Riggs family, and sometime before the Civil War, it came to be known as Riggs Mill. The milling business in that part of the country began to languish with the development of the great milling industry in the West, but the mill continued to struggle on for existence until a few years since."

IN 1790 there was a Mrs. Casandra Chew, living in Montgomery County, who had two daughters and four slaves. At that time there were also residing in the same county Abraham Sheckles, two John Sheckles and two Richard Sheckles. Samuel Sheckles was then a resident of Prince Georges County, as were Joseph Schoolfied, his wife, six sons and two daughters. Any of these might have been related to the early settlers around the Adelphi Mill, mentioned by "The Rambler."

Naturally, there was once a large number of residents in this part of Montgomery County when operations at the Adelphi Mill were at their height, but at the time of the Civil War the population of Bladensburg district, in which it was located, showed a decided increase, and by 1879, according to Hopkins' plat book, a considerable population was noted, and we find residing near the mill or owning property in that neighborhood, John Tomey, William H. Freeman, Columbus Chew, and George W. Riggs, and those who were interested in the land lying west of the Northwest Branch, to the District of Columbia and Montgomery County lines, in the general vicinity of "Green Hill," were William Metzerott, P. P. Gross, F. L. and W. B. Jackson, L. H. Brown's store, Johnson, John Powell, Albert Charles, John Steiner (near another old mill), Andrew Powell, George Neitzey, Robert Brown, James Brown, Canfield, John Joy (manager for Mr. Riggs), Thomas Brown, J. E. Ray, Albert Gleason, William Sibley, Thomas Miller, Mrs. Morrell, John Morrell, Lewis Maurath, William R. McChesney, Amos W. Souder, Thomas Murphy, John Miller, John T. Barnes, Washington E. Nalley, John Miller, James Miller H. Hiden, Daniel Mehring, Arthur Cosack and John Saulsman.

In seeking information about the Cecil Plantation, the old estate of the Davis family, the writer concluded this was probably the land surveyed for Col. Henry Darnal in 1688, and called Girls portion, or that it was carved out of the vast Carroll estate. The Darnall tract, according to early records, extended from Rock Creek, eastward to O. H. P. Clark's farm, 3 3/16 miles, and we are told "the Ashton and Sligo Turnpike passes through the estate, and that the Brookville and Washington Turnpike crosses it." The Blair estate, known as "Silver Spring" was included in this survey.

Sligo Branch apparently passed through the Davis property, and the writer found that, in 1878, the following persons owned property between this stream and the Burnt Mill road to the north, and from the old Ashton and Colesville turnpike to the east, to the Prince Georges County line to the west, namely: Olive P. Clark, Mrs. Clark, Montgomery Blair, Columbus Joy, Charles Montgomery, Samuel Filius, William Beall, Frank Gettings, John Montgomery, Samuel R. Priest and Benjamin Davis.

At this same period from the south side of Sligo Branch to the District line were the following property holders: William H. Thompson, J. L. Dorsey, Charles Stewart, Washington Bonifant, Hy. Nolton, N. Tyler, Benjamin Schuder, Montgomery Blair, Samuel Fenton, C. H. Breshear, William Talbott, Perry Collins, Mrs. M. Blair, Thomas JOnes and Daniel Mehrling.

The way Washington is developing in every available direction makes it most interesting to those who are old enough to look backward for just a few decades over this whole region, and in this respect Takoma Park is no exception for it is really hard to realize what vast changes have taken place in this area in what seems to be only a brief space of time.

According to Guy Clinton, who has written of the site of Takoma Park before that town was laid out, in this neighborhood lived the Bladens, the Hagens and the Cockerilles, and there were the farms of the Jones, the Naughtons and the Hodges. He also further identifies the Bladens by saying that they had a market garden and tells us that Dr. Cockerille was a Washington dentist. He also speaks particularly of Gen. S. S. Carroll and of the blacksmith shop of the Rapleys over beyond the Sligo.

In the early days of Washington the streams that were farmed in the District of Columbia, as well as those which entered the District by way of Maryland, were far more enchanting and majestic than they are today. The beautiful Tiber and its tributaries have long since been converted into sewers - that is what remains of them. Piney Branch has suffered the same fate, while the supply of water flowing into Rock Creek has been considerably reduced. Sligo Branch or Sligo Run, as it is also called, and which flows through a part of Takoma, still retains much of its beauty, but even here its volume has been greatly reduced and the stream is gradually becoming smaller all the time as the country adjacent to it is being built up and the water from the surrounding country finds its way into sewers instead of flowing into this stream. Hence it is not the same Sligo the early settlers of Takoma knew it to be nor does it retain the same charm as in days of yore.

Maj. Gist Blair in his "Annals of Silver Spring," tells us of the road his grandfather built for his grandmother along this stream, for the Blairs were of the earliest settlers of this vicinity, and their property included a part of Takoma Park. Maj. Blair says:

"My grandmother, Violet Gist, for whom I was named - a tall, strong-looking old lady - rode horseback every morning until a few days before her death, when she was 82 and her spirit should linger along that winding roadway which follows Sligo Branch, now where the Seventh-day Adventists have a great sanitarium. This was opened for her to ride horseback through these woods long before the Civil War and extended about 7 miles, almost entirely on the Silver Spring property."

For years the old Sligo Mill was one of the landmarks of Takoma Park. From 1824 to 1826 it was rented to Charles King. Tubman rented it previous to 1831, when it was rented by Faw. In 1833 Pearce Pumphrey rented it, and John Briscoe Davis leased it in 1839, and until 1845, and likely afterward.

One of the earliest and most important improvements made in Takoma Park was the sanitarium erected there in 1889, of which The Star said:

"One of the most important of the many improvements now under way is the sanitarium soon to be erected by R. C. Flower of Boston. Its location will be on the higher grounds in the northern end of the park, and so situated that the Sligo

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WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 8, 1937

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GRAVEYARD LINK IN HISTORY

Area Is Probably Last Resting Place of Some Prominent Citizens of Montgomery County—Well-Kept Garden in Present Condition—Early Takoma Park.

By John Clagett Proctor.

IN THE early days there were many private burial plots in and around Washington, which were here when the Capital was moved to this location in 1800, and some of these could be identified for a considerable number of years afterward. One of the most notable of these was the Burnes' graveyard, which stood on the south side of H street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, about where is now the Printcraft Building, and here was the famous Van Ness Mausoleum until 1872, when it was removed to Oak Hill Cemetery.

However, although so many of the early burial places hereabout are known, still, occasionally suspicion of an unknown one bobs up, as was recently the case when an excavation was being made in downtown Seventh street, and a human skull was unearthed. In this case there was no record of a burial place in this particular location, and it is quite probable the skull was brought to this spot from some nearby graveyard, or it might have been just a part of a homo specimen.

But once in a while a hitherto unknown graveyard does show up, and proves very interesting, as one the writer recently investigated in response to a letter addressed to the Editor of The Star, in which the author said:

"Being a constant reader of The Star ever since I can remember, and quite interested in unusual and quaint things and doings or customs of bygone days, my eye caught this little clipping I am inclosing with my letter in Thursday or Friday evening's Star. It is interesting to me, because I have in my care an old family burial plot, dating back many many years in the past, and all the markings of the graves have been done in the manner mentioned in this clipping, by my ancestors. I am making this a sort of pastime or hobby, if it may be called that. When I came into possession of this piece of ground, it was covered with old brambles and honeysuckle, weeds and, indeed, most everything had covered the entire one-quarter acre; with great care and lots of work I have made it over into a pretty nice park. I thought maybe Mr. John Clagett Proctor might be interested. I read his writings every Sunday and they are quite interesting to me. I have the deed to the property and other information, should any one be interested and would like to call and see me. Most sincerely,

"J. A. DAVIS,

"901 Prospect avenue,

"Takoma Park, Md."

The clipping referred to by Mr. Davis, as taken from The Star, follows:

"MARKING OLD GRAVES."

"There is a burying ground near Webster, Mass., in which the graves are marked with field stones, large ones indicate old men and the small ones indicate old women.

WHEN the writer called on Mr. Davis, whose home and cemetery are at the corner of Prospect and Greenwood avenues, at the extreme north end of Takoma Park, Md., he found a man much fascinated by the work he has been doing—in beautifying and caring for the graves of some of his early ancestors.

Mr. Davis is not an old man, or for this reason we might attribute his great reverence for the dead, but to him caring for this sacred plot is a matter of sentiment, aroused, perhaps, by the fact that he inherited the one-quarter acre of ground, upon which also stands his home, from an uncle, who stipulated that this particular piece of land should always remain in the family.

According to Mr. Davis, in all there are about 125 persons buried in this plot, and this includes his great-grandfather and great-grandmother, Hezekiah Davis and wife.

At an early date the farm hereabout, which must have been of considerable acreage, was known as the Cecil Plantation, having been inherited by Anna Cecil, who, according to the family Bible, married James Davis, May 5, 1799, and Scharf, in his "History of Western Maryland," practically substantiates this in his Montgomery County records, where he records the issuing of a marirage license to James Davis and Anney Cisell, April 25, 1799.

The parents of Anna Cecil, who was born July 12, 1775, were Gabriel and Mary Cecil, and beside Anna the children of the latter included Samuel Cecil, born October 4, 1752; Eleanor Cecil, born April 19, 1754; John Cecil, born October 9, 1757; James Cecil, born February 8, 1759; William Cecil, January 31, 1761; Mary Cecil, born January 31, 1763; Jemima Cecil, born November 25, 1766, Thomas Cecil, born March 20, 1771, and Anna, who married James Davis.

THE age of this burial plot (there apparently being no records to go by) is believed to run back at least as far as 1734, and that the Cecil family lived somewhere in this neighborhood at that time. Indeed, not long since, James A. Davis, who lives on the place, found a confirmation certificate issued to Mary Cecil during the year mentioned by the then rector of St. Paul's Church, more generally known as Rock Creek Church, and she was probably the mother of Gabriel Cecil, who was the father of Anna, who married James Davis. This certificate is now one of the prized relics in the library of the Washington Cathedral.

The family name, Cecil, is a very old one in Maryland history, and the writer was able to pick up at random the name of Joshua Cecil, who is mentioned as living in Calvert County as early as 1693, though it is likely the family was among the pioneer settlers, for there was a known friendship between the Calverts and the Cecils before the charter of Maryland was issued to George Calvert, the then Lord Baltimore, June 20, 1632.

The friendship between these two families is said to have been increased when Sir Robert Cecil, Queen Elizabeth's principal secretary of state, later recommended George Calvert as clerk of the Privy Council of King James, and, though George Calvert never came to America, having died before the execution of the patent to Maryland, named in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, yet his son, Cecil Calvert—undoubtedly named in honor of his friend, Sir Robert Cecil—did settle here, as history so notably records. Of course, Cecil County, in the northeastern part of the State, is named either for some member of the Cecil family or for Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore.

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AS TO the Davis side of the Cecil and Davis families, the family Bible records the issue of James Davis and Anna Cecil as being Thomas Truman Cecil Davis, born March 10, 1800; John Briscoe Davis, born January 14, 1802; Philip Sabret Cecil Davis, born October 14, 1806; Eliza Davis, born January 10, 1809; Sabret Cecil Davis, born August 20, 1811; Hezekiah Davis, born September 6, 1813; Samuel Cecil Davis, born February, 1816, and Benjamin Davis, born May 28, 1818.

Among the Davises recorded as living in Montgomery County in 1790 are Griffith Davis Ephraim, Forrest, three persons by the name of Charles and Baxter, Jeremiah, William, John, John V., Joseph, Levi, Lodowick, Mary, Morris, Nathan, Robert, Thomas and Walter Davis.

Benjamin Davis, who lived in the little log house which originally stood near Carroll and Garland avenues, died 35 or 40 years ago, when what was left of his farm, except the cemeterial plot, was sold to Mr. Thompson, who removed the little house to Greenwood avenue, where it now stands near the old apple orchard which once belonged to the Davis family. Later it was weatherboarded over the logs, and remains in this disguised way today.

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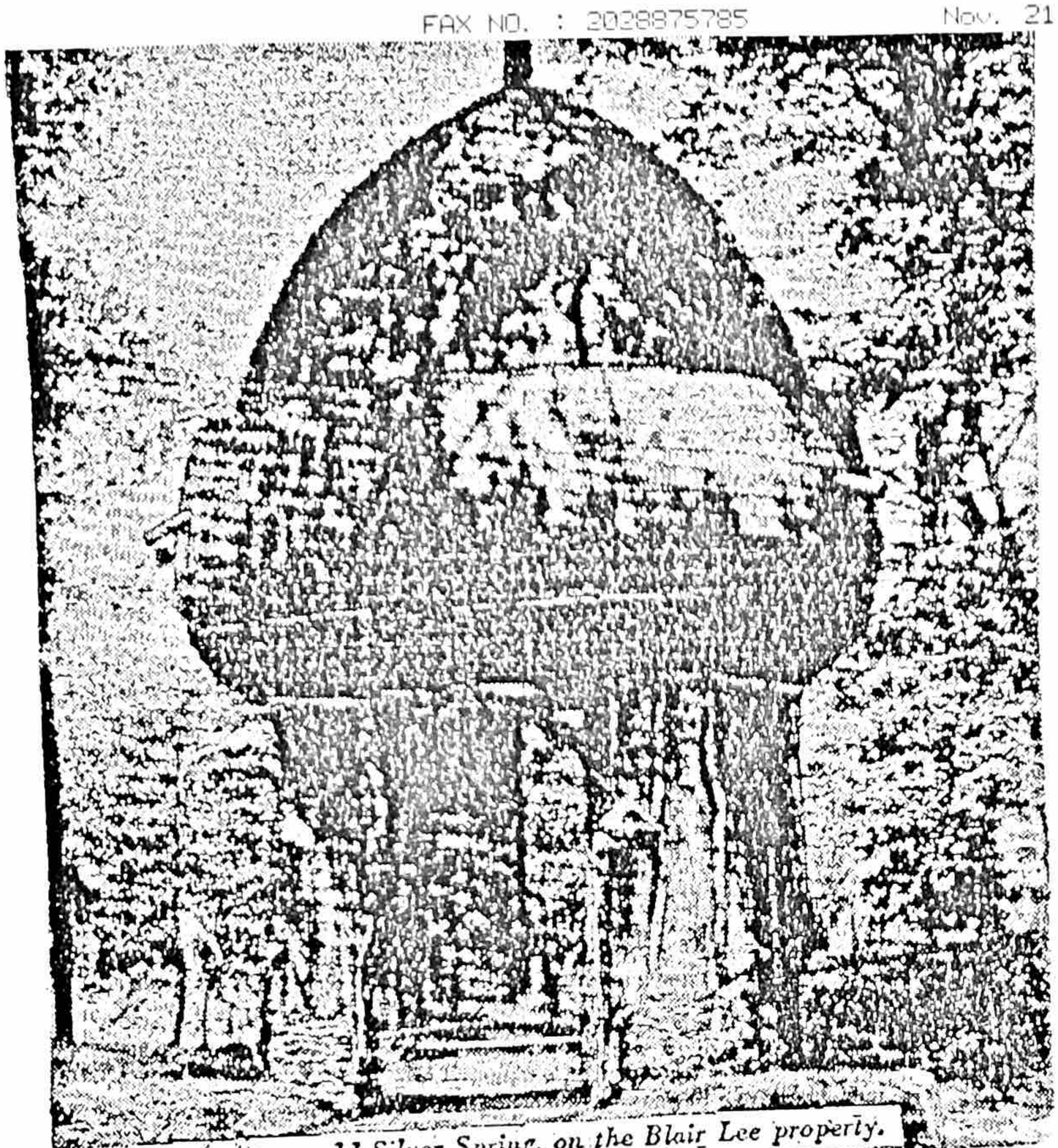
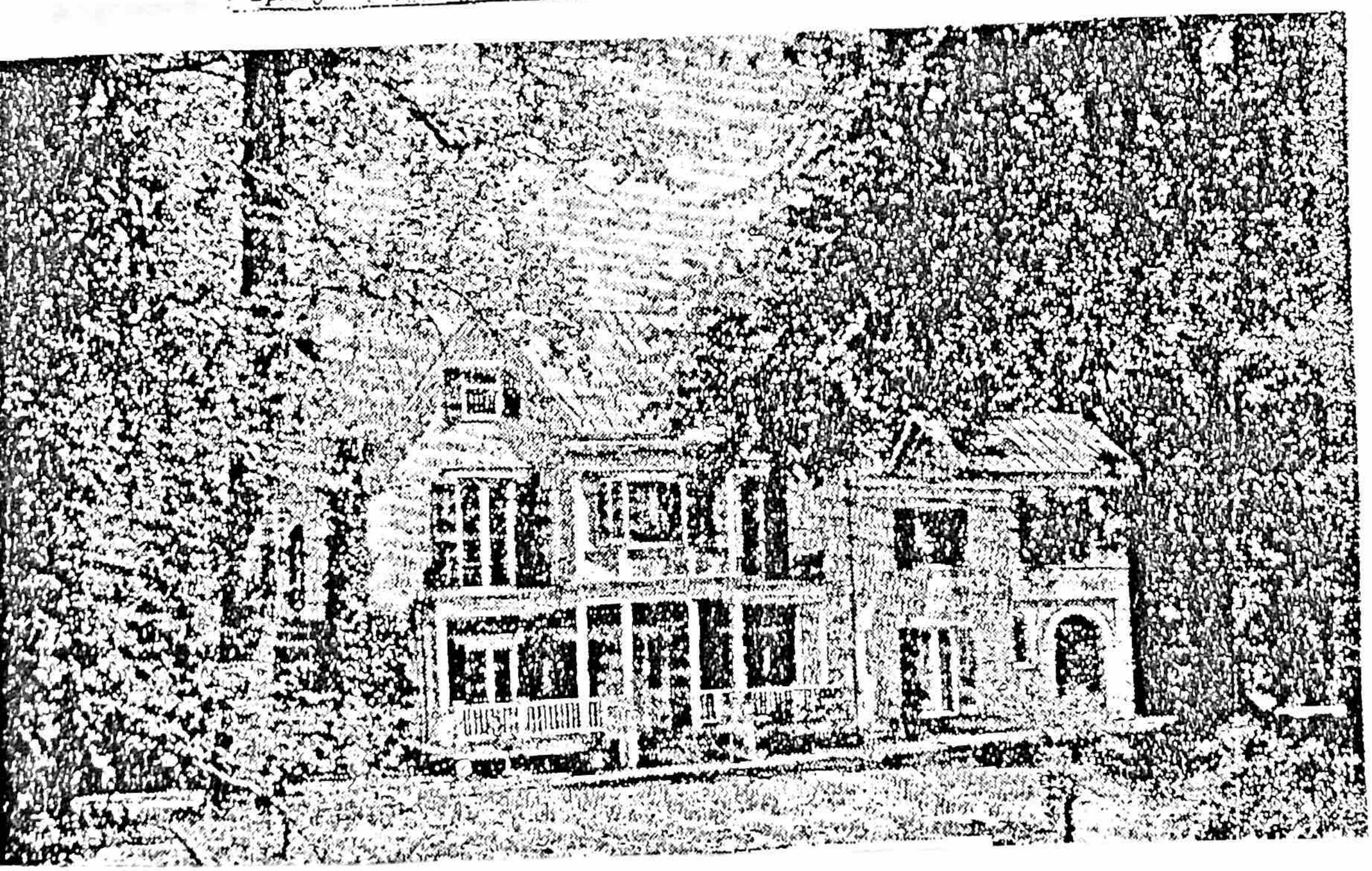


Spring house over old Silver Spring, on the Blair Lee property.



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Sometime ago the writer referred to this old mill, but since it is still so interesting now as it was then, he has no apology for repeating himself in this story. Indeed, it is well worth a trip out there to see, and will be readily recognized by the State marker which reads:

"Adelphi Mill

"This old grist mill, built in the [illegible] of 1796, probably by Guy Scoffield, Leacher and Mahon Sorman. In 1811 the mill was also used for wool carding. The miller's cottage is of the same period."

The mill is about 30 feet front by [illegible] feet in depth. It is one story under ground and two stories above the level, and the walls, which time has failed to destroy, are still fairly well intact. Above the walls there was originally a superstructure of wood, covered by a hip roof, containing one full story and an attic beneath the sloping shingle roof and the original "The Rambler," the writer's predecessor in writing these stories for The Star, who died February 12, 1926, and whose real name was J. Harry Shannon, visited this old mill in the Spring of 1914, and then met H. T. Freeman, who was residing in an old brick house nearby. The interview between "The Rambler" and Mr. Freeman brought out the following interesting comments:

"That he was born there in 1857 and had lived there all the years since. His father, William H. Freeman, lived there all his life, and his grandfather, Thomas Scheckles, lived there before him. He said that he understood that the mill was built about 150 years ago. The date of the erection of the mill had been rudely cut in the stone of the foundation, but a long while ago it had been so mutilated by some boys from the Agricultural College that it could not now be deciphered.

"He had learned from his father, who got it from his father and mother, that an English family named Scofield moved into that part of the country a good many years before the American Revolution and built the brick house on the hill, the stone house opposite the mill, and then the mill. It was operated as Scofield's mill. Then another English family by the name of Logan acquired the property, and the place was long known as Logan's Mill. The property was next taken over by the Riggs family, and sometime before the Civil War it came to be known as Riggs Mill. The milling business in that part of the country began to languish with the development of the great milling industry in the West, but the mill continued to struggle on for existence until a few years since."

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Naturally, there were not a large number of residents in that part of Montgomery County when operations at the Adelphi Mill were at their height, but at the time of the Civil War the population of Bladensburg district, in which it was located, showed a decided increase, and by 1879, according to Hopkins' plat book, a considerable population was noted, and we find residing near the mill or owning property in that neighborhood, John Tomey, William H. Freeman, Columbus Chew and George W. Riggs, and those who were interested in the land lying west of the Northwest Branch, to the District of Columbia and Montgomery County lines, in the general vicinity of "Green Hill," were William Metzerott, P. P. Gross, B. L. and W. B. Jackson, L. H. Brown's store, Johnson, John Powell, Albert Charles, John Steiner (near another old mill), Andrew Powell, George Neitzey, Robert Brown, James Brown, Canfield, John Joy (manager for Mr. Riggs), Thomas Brown, J. E. Ray, Albert Gleason, William Sibley, Thomas Miller, Mrs. Morrell, John Morrell Lewis Maurath, William R. McChesney, Amos W. Souder, Thomas Murphy, John Miller, John T. Barnes, Washington E. Nalley, John Miller, James Miller H. Hiden, Daniel Mehrling, Arthur Cosack and John Saulsman.

IN SEEKING information about the Cecil Plantation, the old estate of the Davis family, the writer concluded this was probably the land surveyed for Col. Henry Darnall in 1688, and called Girls portion, or that it was carved out of the vast Carroll estate. The Darnall tract, according to early records, extended from Rock Creek, eastward to O. H. P. Clark's farm, 3¾ miles, and we are told "the Ashton and Sligo Turnpike passes through the estate, and that the Brookville and Washington turnpike crosses it." The Blair estate, known as "Silver Spring", was included in this survey.

Sligo Branch apparently passed through the Davis property, and the writer found that, in 1878, the following persons owned property between this stream and the Burnt Mill road to the north, and from the old Ashton and Colesville turnpike, to the east, to the Prince Georges County line to the west, namely: Olive P. Clark, Mrs. Clark, Montgomery Blair, Columbus Joy, Charles Montgomery, Samuel Fillus, William Beall, Frank Gettings, John Montgomery, Samuel R. Priest and Benjamin Davis.

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The way Washington is developing in every available direction makes it most interesting to those who are old enough to look backward for just a few decades over this whole region, and in this respect Takoma Park is no exception, for it is really hard to realize what vast changes have taken place in this area in what seems to be only a brief space of time.

ACCORDING to Guy Clinton, who has written of the site of Takoma Park before that town was laid out, in this neighborhood lived the Bladens, the Hagens and the Cockerilles, and there were the farms of the Jones, the Naughtons and Hodges.

He also further identifies the Bladens by saying that they had a market garden and tells us that Dr. Cockerille was a Washington dentist. He also speaks particularly of Gen. S. S. Carroll and of the blacksmith shop of the Raplays over beyond the Sligo.

In the early days of Washington the streams that were formed in the District of Columbia, as well as those which entered the District by way of Maryland, were far more enchanting and majestic than they are today. The beautiful Tiber and its tributaries have long since been converted into sewers—that is, what remains of them. Piney Branch has suffered the same fate, while the supply of water flowing into Rock Creek has been considerably reduced. Sligo Branch or Sligo Run, as it is also called, and which flows through a part of Takoma, still retains much of its beauty, but even here its volume has been greatly reduced, and the stream is gradually becoming smaller all the time as the country adjacent to it is being built up and the water from the surrounding country finds its way into sewers instead of flowing into this stream. Hence it is not the same Sligo the early settlers of Takoma knew it to be nor does it retain the same charm as in days of yore.

MAJ. GIST BLAIR, in his "Annals of Silver Spring," tells us of the road his grandfather built for his grandmother along this stream, for the Blairs were of the earliest settlers of this vicinity, and their property included a part of Takoma Park. Maj. Blair says:

"My grandmother, Violet Gist, for

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LEWIS DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

This old farm house on Greenwood avenue, Takoma Park, formerly stood near the intersection of Carroll and Garland avenues. It was then occupied by Benjamin Davis, one of Maryland's early settlers.

Garden adjoining the home of James A. Davis in North Takoma Park where some of Montgomery County's early families are buried.

whom I was named—a tall, strong-looking old lady—rode horseback every morning until a few days before her death, when she was 82, and her spirit should linger along that winding roadway which follows Sligo Branch, now where the Seventh-day Adventists have a great sanitarium. This was opened for her to ride horseback through these woods long before the Civil War and extended about 7 miles, almost entirely on the Silver Spring property."

For years the old Sligo Mill was one of the landmarks of Takoma Park. From 1824 to 1828 it was rented to Charles King. Tubman rented it previous to 1831, when it was rented by Faw. In 1833 Pearce Pumphrey rented it, and John Briscoe Davis leased it in 1839, and until 1845, and likely afterward.

ONE of the earliest and most important improvements made in Takoma Park was the sanitarium erected there in 1889, of which The Star said:

"One of the most important of the many improvements now under way is the sanitarium soon to be erected by R. C. Flower of Boston.

"Its location will be on the higher grounds in the northern end of the park, and so situated that the Sligo will wind around the foot of the elevation on which the main building will be placed."

In 1908 Prof. Louis Denton Bliss purchased the North Takoma Hotel property, containing 160 rooms. This building was erected in 1892 and after it had been remodeled and equipped to suit the purposes of the school, it was occupied and work begun there as a residence institution for the Bliss Electrical School. However, on the night of November 6, 1908, when the school had occupied the structure but a few months, the entire plant was wiped out by fire, one of the most costly conflagrations Takoma ever had. New quarters were soon begun, and the following year one wing of the present administration building was erected.

This institution had its beginning in 1893, when Prof. Bliss opened his electrical school in the Warder Building, at the southeast corner of Ninth and F streets northwest, where stood in the early days the home of George C. Whiting, for whom a Masonic lodge in this city was named.

At first there was a small class of but 20 students, mostly from the Census Office. From this building the school moved to 219 G street, where it remained until it moved to Takoma Park.

Among the more celebrated graduates of this school was the late C. Francis Jenkins, who graduated in the second class. From the very first this inventive genius believed a machine could be produced which could project a life-size picture.

His facilities were limited, but he soon built a small machine in a washstand, while the school was still being conducted at the Ninth and F street address. Soon afterward, the machine being perfected, he was able to throw upon the wall of the school a life-sized motion picture of a dancing girl. His invention became fundamental to the industry, and his patents most valuable.

Another institution which has had much to do with the development of Takoma Park is that of the Seventh-day Adventists, who in the Summer of 1903 purchased some 45 acres of land, through which runs the Sligo

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...uncle, who stipulated that this particular piece of land should always remain in the family.

According to Mr. Davis, in all there are about 123 persons buried in this plot, and this includes his great-grandfather and great-grandmother, Hezekiah Davis and wife.

At an early date the farm hereabout, which must have been of considerable acreage, was known as the Cecil Plantation, having been inherited by Anna Cecil, who, according to the family Bible, married James Davis, May 5, 1799, and Scharf, in his "History of Western Maryland," practically substantiates this in his Montgomery County records, where he records the issuing of a marriage license to James Davis and Anney Cecil, April 25, 1799.

The parents of Anna Cecil, who was born July 12, 1775, were Gabriel and Mary Cecil, and beside Anna, the children of the latter included: Samuel Cecil, born October 4, 1752; Eleanor Cecil, born April 19, 1754; John Cecil, born October 9, 1757; James Cecil, born February 8, 1759; William Cecil, January 31, 1761; Mary Cecil, born January 21, 1763; Jemima Cecil, born November 25, 1766; Thomas Cecil, born March 20, 1771, and Anna, who married James Davis.

THE age of this burial plot (there apparently being no records to go by) is believed to run back at least as far as 1734, and that the Cecil family lived somewhere in this neighborhood at that time. Indeed, not long since, James A. Davis, who lives on the place, found a confirmation certificate issued to Mary Cecil during the year mentioned, by the then rector of St. Paul's Church, more generally known as Rock Creek Church, and she was probably the mother of Gabriel Cecil, who was the father of Anna, who married James Davis. This certificate is now one of the prized relics in the library of the Washington Cathedral.

The family name, Cecil, is a very old one in Maryland history, and the writer was able to pick up at random the name of Joshua Cecil, who is mentioned as living in Calvert County as early as 1695, though it is likely the family was among the pioneer settlers, for there was a known friendship between the Calverts and the Cecils before the charter of Maryland was issued to George Calvert, the then Lord Baltimore, June 20, 1632.

The friendship between these two families is said to have been increased when Sir Robert Cecil, Queen Elizabeth's principal secretary of state, later recommended George Calvert as clerk of the Privy Council of King James, and though George Calvert never came to America, having died before the execution of the patent to Maryland, named in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, yet his son, Cecil Calvert—undoubtedly named in honor of his friend, Sir Robert Cecil—did

County, Md., these being Archibald Cecil and Kinsey Cecil. At this time the former was married and had two sons under 16 years of age and two daughters, while Kinsey Cecil was married and had one son under 16. At this time there were also living in Frederick County William Cecil, sr., and William Cecil, jr. John Cecil was then living in Queen Anne County.

AS TO the Davis side of the Cecil and Davis families, the family Bible records the issue of James Davis and Anna Cecil as being Thomas Truman Cecil Davis, born March 10, 1800; John Briscoe Davis, born January 14, 1802; Philip Sabret Cecil Davis, born October 14, 1806; Elias Davis, born January 10, 1809; Sabret Cecil Davis, born August 20, 1811; Hezekiah Davis, born September 8, 1813; Samuel Cecil Davis, born February, 1816, and Benjamin Davis, born May 28, 1818.

Among the Davises recorded as living in Montgomery County in 1790 are Griffith Davis Ephraim, Forrest, three persons by the name of Charles and Baxter, Jeremiah, William, John, John V., Joseph, Levi, Lodowick, Mary, Morris, Nathan, Robert, Thomas and Walter Davis.

Benjamin Davis, who lived in the little log house which originally stood near Carroll and Garland avenues, died 35 or 40 years ago, when what was left of his farm, except the cemeterial plot, was sold to Mr. Thompson, who removed the little house to Greenwood avenue, where it now stands near the old apple orchard which once belonged to the Davis family. Later it was weatherboarded over the logs, and remains in this disguised way today.

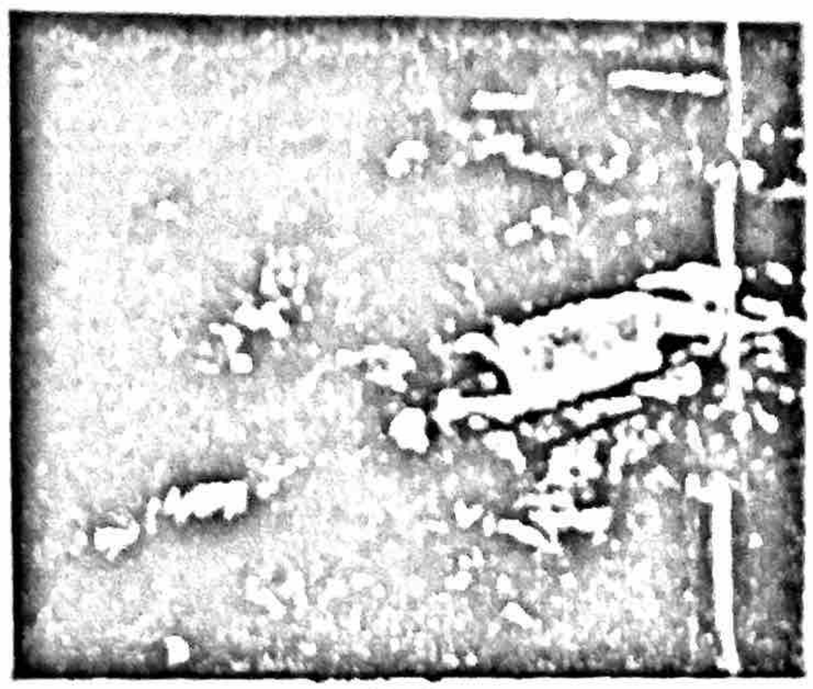
Early in his life Benjamin Davis, who was born in 1818, as stated, was a miller at the old Riggs mill, which is still standing on the Riggs road, and generally known by that name, though it is more correctly the Adelphi Mill. It is a picturesque old structure and received its supply of water, when in operation years ago, from the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River, which crosses the road at this point. Today this stream compares with Rock Creek, though it was much larger a century ago—and so was Rock Creek.

Sometime ago the writer referred to this old mill, but since it is just as interesting now as it was then, he has no apology for repeating himself in this story. Indeed, it is well worth a trip out there to see, and will be readily recognized by the State marker which reads:

"Adelphi Mill.

"This old grist mill, built in the Summer of 1796, probably by two brothers, Issacher and Mahon Scofield. In 1811 the mill was also used for wool carding. The miller's cottage is of the same period."

THE mill is about 50 feet front by 60 feet in depth. It is one story under ground and two stories above



Garden adjoining the home of James ... Takoma Park ... home of Montgomery ... lies are buried.

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"He had learned from his father, who got it from his father and mother, that an English family named Scofield moved into that part of the country a good many years before the American Revolution and built the brick house on the hill, the stone house opposite the mill, and then the mill. It was operated as Scofield's mill. Then another English family by the name of Logan acquired the property, and the place was long known as Logan's Mill. The property was next taken over by the Riggs family, and sometime before the Civil War it came to be known as Riggs Mill. The milling business in that part of the country began to languish with the development of the great milling industry in the West, but the mill continued to struggle on for existence until a few years since."

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IN 1790 there was a Mrs. Cassandra Chew, living in Montgomery County, who had two daughters and four slaves. At that time there were also residing in the same county Abraham Sheckles, two John Sheckles and two Richard Sheckles. Samuel Sheckles was then a resident of Prince Georges County, as were Joseph Schoolfield, his wife, six sons and two daughters. Any of these might have been related to the early settlers around the Adelphi Mill mentioned by "The Rambler."

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At this same period from the south side of Sligo Branch to the District line were the following property holders: William H. Thompson, J. L. Dorsey, Charles Stewart, Washington Bonifant, Hy. Nolton, N. Tyler, Benjamin Schuder, Montgomery Blair, Samuel Fenton, C. H. Breahear, William Talbott, Perry Collins, Mrs. M. Blair, Thomas Jones and Daniel Mehrling.

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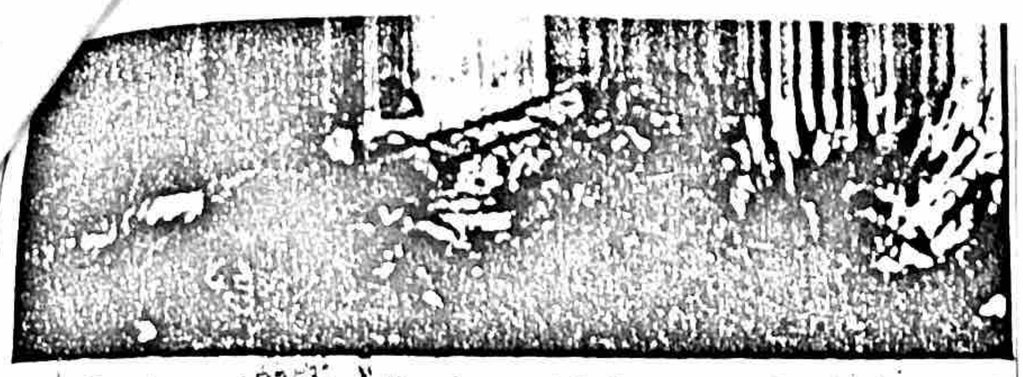

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CECIL - DAVIS FAMILY CEMETERY
7911 GREENWOOD AVE.
TAKOMA PARK

Garden adjoining the home of James A. Davis in North Takoma Park where some of Montgomery County's early families are buried.

the level, and the walls which time has failed to destroy, are still fairly well intact. Above the walls there was originally a superstructure of wood, covered by a hip roof containing one full story and an attic beneath the sloping shingle roof and the ridgepole.

"The Rambler," the writer's predecessor in writing these stories for The Star, who died February 12, 1928, and whose real name was J. Harry Shannon, visited this old mill in the Spring of 1914, and then met H. T. Freeman, who was residing in an old brick house nearby. The interview between "The Rambler" and Mr. Freeman brought out the following interesting comments:

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