



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: Button Farm Cemetery	Inventory ID: 260
Alternate names:	County ID: M: 18-43
Address: 16820 Black Rock Road, Germantown	
Website: https://buttonfarm.org/	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: 39.128618	Longitude: -77.312492
FindaGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2661862	

BURIAL SITE TYPE

Category: ☐ Religious ☐ Community ☒ **Family** ☒ **African American** ☐ Other:

BURIAL SITE EVALUATION

Setting/location description: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wooded <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
General condition (See conditions sheet): <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> None		
Is there a formal entrance? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Accessibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Inaccessible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By foot <input type="checkbox"/> By car	
Is cemetery active (recent burials)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Is there a cemetery sign: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is cemetery being maintained? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, note caretaker's name below)		
Are there visible markers? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Approximate number of burials/visible markers: 15	Date ranges: N/A
Description: (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping/vegetation, fence, paths and roads, etc.)		
• Southwest of the dwelling house, across a large field, short distance into an overgrown wooded area c.100' making it difficult to find. Canopy of large trees.		
• 6 field stones, only 2 still upright. A large stone marked with a cross, lying flat, w/broken milk glass around it.		
• Evidence of digging at one grave site. Described by archaeologists 1979 as about 20 stones set in a "non-random" pattern within an area of about 50' x 30'. Visit in 2010 found 15 crude stones embedded on end in the ground, while others lie flat. Vary in thickness, size, and shape, 2 appear to have markings.		

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Seneca Creek State Park		
Relationship to burial site: Owner	Advocacy contact: menarefoundation@aol.com	
Button Farm Living History Center, Custodian		
Address: 16820 Black Rock Road		Phone: 202-903-4140
City: Germantown	State: MD	ZIP Code: 20874

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

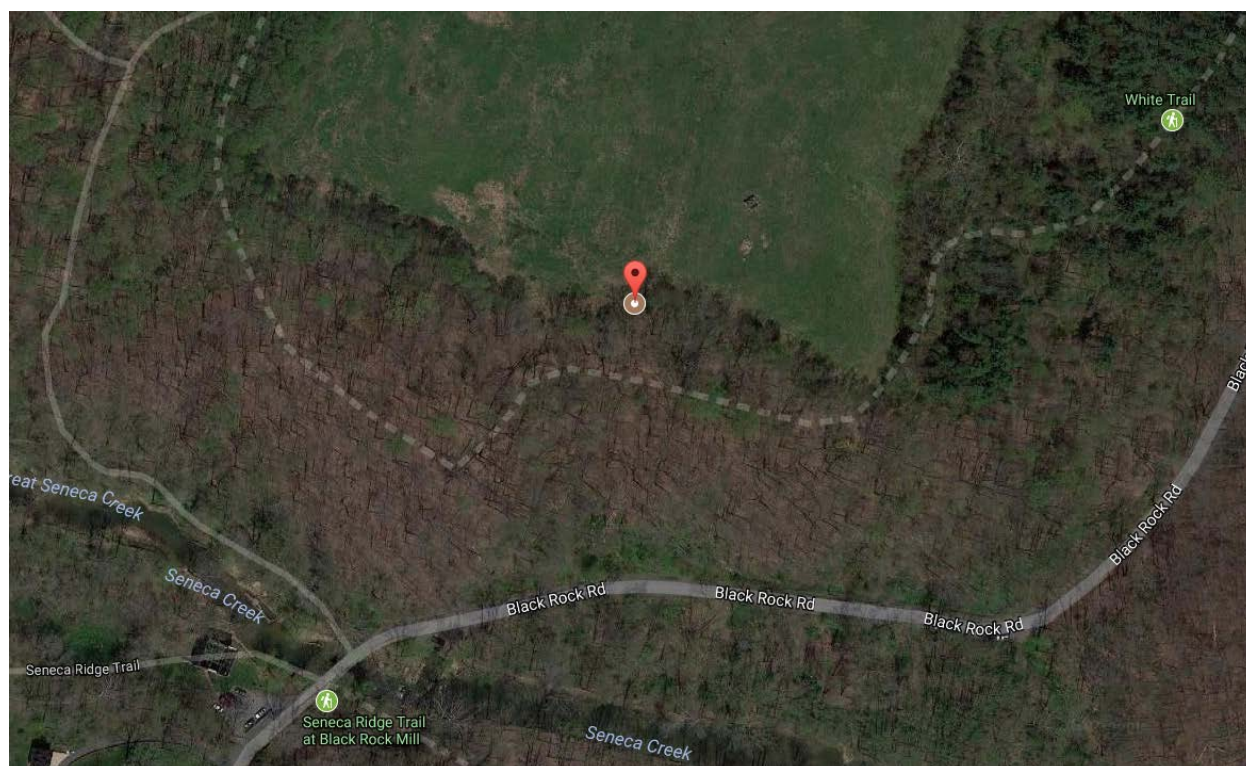
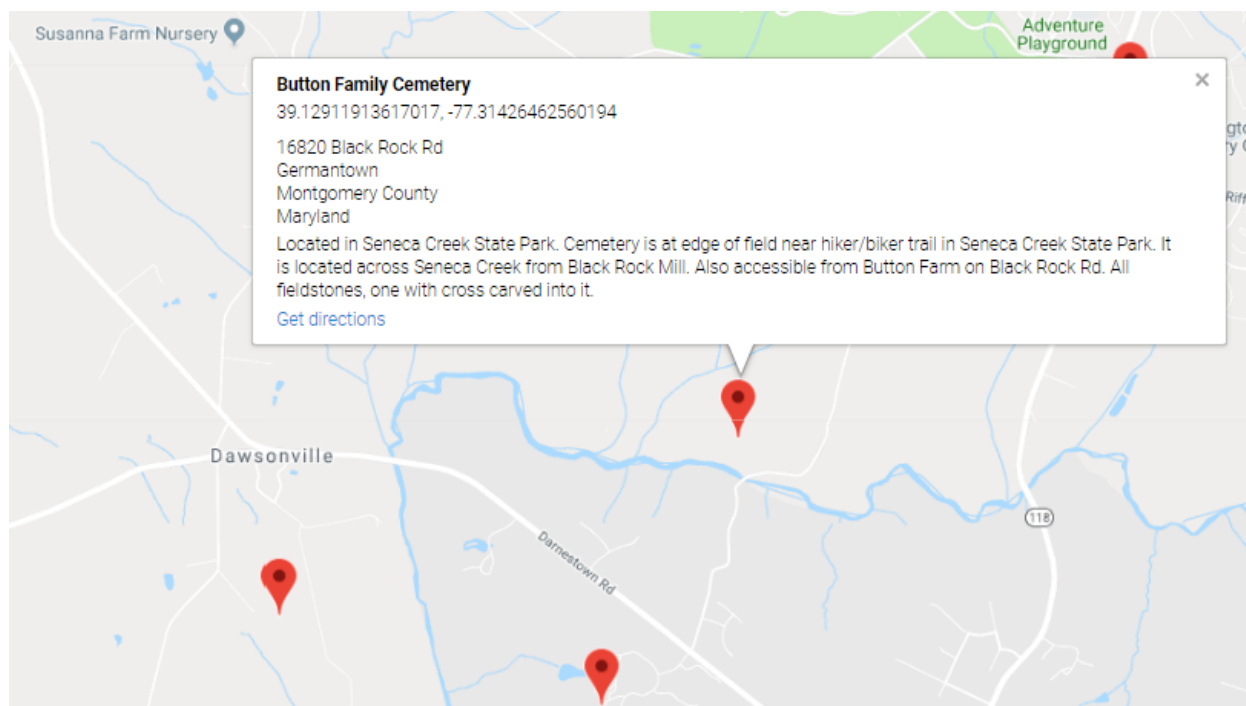
Name: Susan Soderberg	Survey Date: 3/29/2018	Time spent: 20 min
		Photographer: Cay Savel

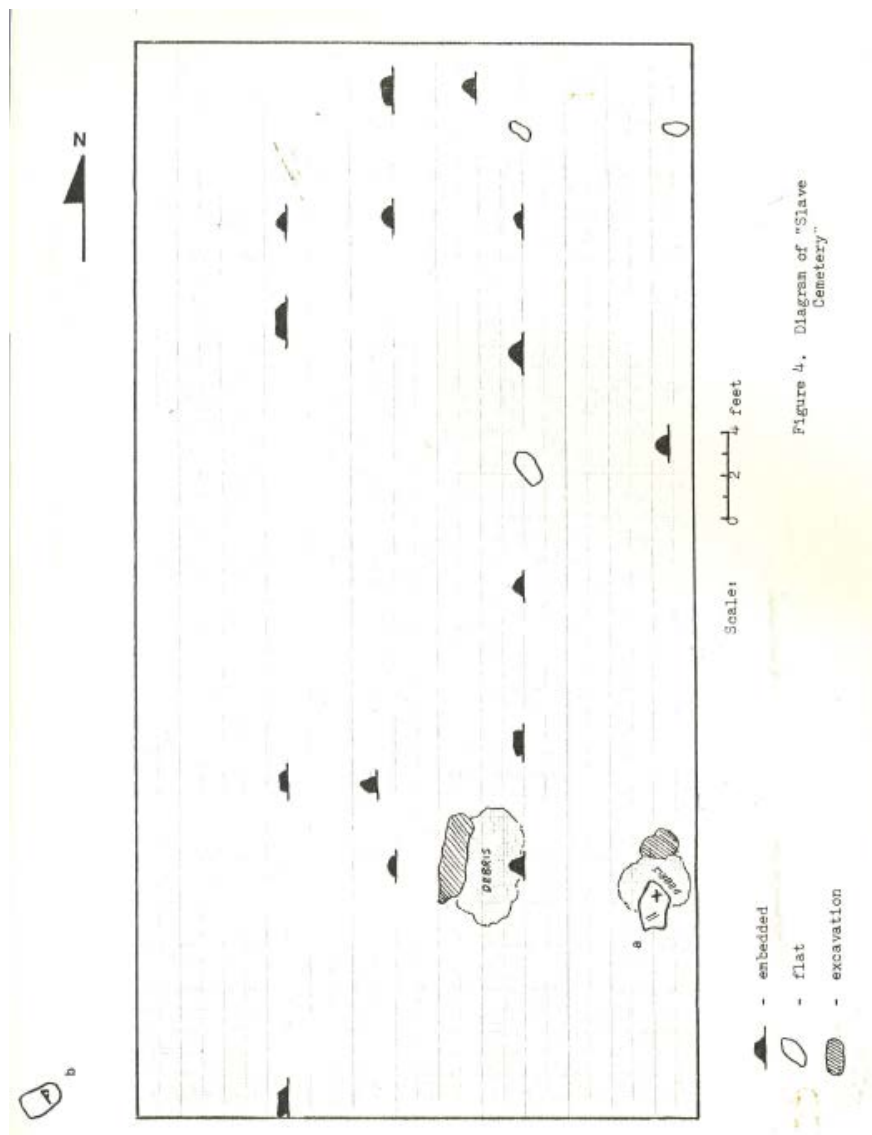
COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:
• More research necessary to determine who might actually be buried here.
• May be associated with mill workers of the Black Rock quarry just below, rather than slaves
Safety issues, invasive vegetation removal, fence removal/restoration, signage, trash, erosion, vandalism:
• Located alongside the White Trail for hikers and bikers. Unmarked so it's difficult to notice.
Anything of significance about this cemetery?
• Oprah Winfrey was brought here to prepare for her role as Sethe in the movie, BELOVED. (1997)
• There was no farm in this vicinity until after the Civil War

SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:
• https://menare.org/button-farm/
• https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M:%2018-43.pdf





Preliminary Archeological Reconnaissance of Sludge Trenching, Site 57.

Notes on the "Magruder" Slave Cemetery on the Button Farm above Seneca Creek

According to the "1867-68 [Ex]Slave Census" Liddy Magruder (40) and her two children Richard (14) and Rose (12) were owned by William McAtee, who is shown on the 1865 Martinet and Bond map as living about ½-mile NE of the intersection of Darnestown-Neelsville Rd. (old Rt. 118) and Clopper Rd. According to the 1867 Hopkins map, William McAtee lived, at that time, on the east side of Rt. 118 about one mile north of its intersection with Rt. 28.

I do not know how the cemetery may have been labeled "Magruder." If it is indeed a slave cemetery, then it may have been slaves who worked at the Blackrock Mill or at the Blackrock quarry across from the Mill. More research needs to be done.

Susan Cooke Soderberg
May 15, 2018

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

Cemetery Name: Button Farm		Inventory ID:
Photographer: Cay Savel		Date: 4/14/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing (Ex: detail of wall around Carr plot facing North)
	1	Sign on Black Rock Road
	2	Approach to cemetery through field, facing south
	3	Panoramic from west to north to east
	4	Panoramic from east to south to west
	5	Marker with a engraved cross, disturbed site in background
	6	Flat marker, facing south
	7	Flat marker



1. Sign on Black Rock Road



2. Approach to cemetery through field, facing south



3. Panoramic from west to north to east



4. Panoramic from east to south to west



5. Marker with a engraved cross, disturbed site in background



6. Flat marker, facing south



7. Flat marker