



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

## BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: <b>Clipper Family Cemetery</b>	Inventory ID: <b>271</b>
Alternate name: Stonecutters' Cemetery	
Address: <b>Between River Rd and the C&amp;O Canal, just west of Partnership Rd, Seneca (Poolesville)</b>	
Website:	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: <b>39.069434</b>	Longitude: <b>-77.348429</b>
FindaGrave:	

## BURIAL SITE TYPE

Category:  Religious  Community  Family  African American  Other:

## BURIAL SITE EVALUATION

Setting/location description:  Rural  Urban  Suburban  Wooded  Other:

General condition (See conditions sheet):  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor  None

Is there a formal entrance?  Yes  No      Accessibility:  Inaccessible  By foot  By car

Is cemetery active (recent burials)?  Yes  No      Is there a cemetery sign:  Yes  No

Is cemetery being maintained?  Yes  Minimal  No (If yes, note caretaker's name below)

Are there visible markers?  Yes  No      Approximate number of burials/visible markers: **30+**      Visible Date ranges: **? to 1903**

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

The cemetery is located in a heavily wooded area north of the C&O Canal and south of River Road. There is no marked entrance or marked path to the cemetery and accessibility is by foot only. There is a utility (Pepco?) right-of-way gated entrance into the woods from River Road about 1/2 mile west of the historic Seneca School House (16800 River Road). Following this right-of-way into the woods is probably the most direct path to the cemetery...(continued on attached page)

## BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: Allen Driver (Seneca Community Church, Cemetery Committee)

Relationship to burial site: Church Cemetery Committee      Advocacy contact: [adriver@verizon.net](mailto:adriver@verizon.net)

Address:      Phone:

City:      State:      ZIP Code:

## BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

Name: Ingrid Fraley      Survey Date: **m3/17/2018**

Address: 15220 Berryville Road, Germantown, 20874      Phone:

Email: [ifraley@aol.com](mailto:ifraley@aol.com)      703-927-8700

Photographer: Ryan Pike ([ryanjpike@gmail.com](mailto:ryanjpike@gmail.com))

## COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:

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

There was no visible disturbance to the grave stones or the site. There was evidence of hunting in the area (shotgun casings and bullet-laden cans, but otherwise it did not appear that the site was frequently visited, probably because of its remoteness.

Anything of significance about this cemetery?

Historic African-American family cemetery. Several family members of past and current Seneca Community ME Church members are buried here. Many worked at the nearby Seneca Quarry.

## SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:

**Clipper Family Cemetery**  
(AKA Stonecutter's Cemetery)

**Inventory ID: 271**

Site Visit: 3/17/2018

Report Issued: 3/30/2018

**Burial Site Evaluation**

Site Description continued...

However, the right-of-way was so overgrown at the River Road entrance, our team took a separate route into an adjacent cornfield, entering the woods at its perimeter and using the GPS coordinates from the 2005 Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory to locate the site. Special thanks to Allen Driver and Nick Brame for leading the "Expedition".

There are no signs or fences or even a clearing that would cue a visitor to the site. The cemetery site is approximately (a guess) 50 yards by 50 yards with mature trees and a blanket of groundcover (group consensus was periwinkle, a popular ground cover in cemeteries for its low maintenance). The headstones do not appear to be arranged in any specific order. Most of the headstones appear to be of Seneca sandstone. Some stones have been shaped (half-round top was common) while others remain natural. Some are hand inscribed, while others have no writing (or the writing has been lost to weathering and time). Some stones appear to have been propped up against trees at some point in time (some of the trees appear to be younger than death date on the stone).

Determining the number of burials is very difficult. Six headstones have clear inscriptions of names and/or dates. One stone has a cross inscribed and another stone has what appear to be markings that look intentional but are illegible. There are at least a dozen more stones of significant size which likely mark a grave, but are unmarked. And several smaller stones, most of which are in their natural shape, that may mark a grave or be footstones.



## Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

- Before you begin, create a folder in your photo app on your mobile device. Name the folder to match the ID number of that cemetery, i.e., 059 or 254. Each cemetery you are assigned should have its own folder. All photos should be stored in this folder.
- Please take a variety of photos that capture the proximity from the main road, size, and vicinity of the burial site. Move in a clockwise direction through the cemetery to capture your movement chronologically.
- If your mobile device has a panoramic function, take two panoramic photos from the **center** of the cemetery. Establish where true North is and take one panoramic from West-North-East and the second from East-South-West.
- List the time and date of each photograph and include the direction you are facing.
- Photo files (*and a photo of this completed form*) may be emailed to [mococems@gmail.com](mailto:mococems@gmail.com) or uploaded to <https://tinyurl.com/mococems>

<b>Cemetery Name: Clipper Family Cemetery</b>		<b>Inventory ID: 271</b>
<b>Photographer:</b>		
<b>Time &amp; Date</b>	<b>Photo No.</b>	<b>Description and direction you are facing</b> (Ex: detail of wall around Carr plot facing North)
		See separate photo inventory.

### CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED IMAGES

- Photo 1 taken from the roadside approach to the cemetery—the view the public would see while driving by. If the cemetery is not visible from the road, please take a series of photos as you approach the cemetery—from the road to the parking area, through a field, woods, etc.
- Photo 2 taken toward the center of the cemetery from the cemetery main entrance, gate, or first boundary you come to.
- Photo 3 panoramic taken from the center of the cemetery, starting from West to North to East.
- Photo 4 panoramic taken from the center of the cemetery, starting from East to South to East.

*If you have any extra time and would like to photograph some or all of the gravestones, please do so. Remember not to physically touch, move, or clean the stones.*

## Clipper Family Cemetery

Inventory ID: 271

### Photo Inventory

No.	Date	Time	Description / Location	GPS (if avail.)	Photographer
271_1	3/17/2018	9:56 am	River Road access point (gate) to farmer's field (we crossed the field to enter the wooded area).	39°04'53"N 77°21'29"W	Ryan Pike
271_2	Same	9:57 am	The team walking along the perimeter of the cornfield just beyond the River Road entrance heading towards the woods, Left to Right: Nick Brame (our guide), Joe Scopin, Ingrid Fraley, Anne Allnutt, Ruth Chesler (and Allen Driver out of view)		Ryan Pike
271_3	Same	10:00 am	View along field route taken to woods		Allen Driver
271_4	Same	10:00 am	View back towards River Road access point (gate)		Allen Driver
271_5	Same	10:16 am	Creek along route we took in the woods searching for the cemetery site		Allen Driver
271_6	Same	10:54 am	Screen shot of iPhone GPS Coordinates at approx. center of cemetery	39°04'16"N 77°21'42"W	Ryan Pike
271_7	Same	10:55 am	General view of the area		Ryan Pike
271_8	Same	10:55 am	General view of the area		Ryan Pike
271_9	Same	10:55 am	"Jack Clipper" headstone		Ryan Pike
271_10	Same	10:56 am	"Jack Clipper" headstone close-up		Ryan Pike
271_11	Same	10:56 am	"Jack Clipper" headstone side view		Ryan Pike
271_12	Same	10:56 am	"Annie" headstone		Ryan Pike
271_13	Same	10:57 am	"M" headstone		Ryan Pike
271_14	Same	10:57 am	Unmarked Sandstone marker		Ryan Pike
271_15	Same	10:58 am	Unmarked Sandstone marker		Ryan Pike
271_16	Same	10:58 am	Unmarked Sandstone marker		Ryan Pike
271_17	Same	10:59 am	General view of the area		Ryan Pike
271_18	Same	11:01 am	Unmarked Sandstone marker		Ryan Pike
271_19	Same	11:02 am	Unmarked stone marker		Ryan Pike
271_20	Same	11:02 am	General view of the area		Ryan Pike
271_21	Same	11:07 am	Unmarked Sandstone marker		Ryan Pike

## Clipper Family Cemetery

Inventory ID: 271

### Photo Inventory

No.	Date	Time	Description / Location	GPS (if avail.)	Photographer
271_22	3/17/2018	11:07 am	General view of the area		Ryan Pike
271_23	Same	11:10 am	General view of the area with "Basil Jackson" headstone in foreground		Ryan Pike
271_24	Same	11:10 am	"Basil Jackson" headstone		Ryan Pike
271_25	Same	11:10 am	"Martha Jackson" headstone		Ryan Pike
271_26	Same	11:10 am	"John Clipper" headstone		Ryan Pike
271_27	Same	11:13 am	General view of the area with view of "Jack Clipper" headstone		Ryan Pike
271_28	Same	11:17 am	General view of the area (large 'nubby' tree is somewhat central to the cemetery)		Ryan Pike
271_29	Same	11:24 am	"Cross" stone (stone was flat on the ground)		Ryan Pike
271_30	Same	11:32 am	Panoramic, East to South to West (center of photo is "Jack Clipper" headstone)		Ryan Pike
271_31	Same	11:35 am	Panoramic, North to East to South, furthest stone to the right in the image is the "M" headstone leaning against tree)	39°04'12"N 77°21'47"W	Ryan Pike
271_32	Same	11:36 am	Panoramic, South to West to North, the three larger stones on the left side of the image are "Basil Jackson" (furthest left), "Martha Clipper" and "John Clipper"		Ryan Pike
271_33	Same	11:41 am	View Southwest towards the cemetery (starts a little beyond the fallen tree) from the utility right-of-way "path"		Ryan Pike
271_34	Same	10:58 am	Stone "marker" at edge of cemetery		Allen Driver
271_35	Same	11:01 am	"Basil Jackson" headstone		Allen Driver
271_36	Same	11:03 am	"Martha Clipper" headstone		Allen Driver
271_37	Same	11:05 am	Unmarked Sandstone marker		Allen Driver

## Clipper Family Cemetery

Inventory ID: 271

### Photo Inventory

No.	Date	Time	Description / Location	GPS (if avail.)	Photographer
271_38	3/17/2018	11:05 am	General view of the area		Allen Driver
271_39	Same	11:06 am	General view of the area		Allen Driver
271_40	Same	11:07 am	Unmarked Sandstone marker		Allen Driver
271_41	Same	11:21 am	"Jack Clipper" headstone		Allen Driver
271_42	Same	11:21 am	"Annie" headstone		Allen Driver
271_43	Same	11:21 am	"M" headstone		Allen Driver
271_44	Same	11:21 am	Unmarked sandstone marker		Allen Driver
271_45	Same	11:21 am	Unmarked sandstone marker		Allen Driver
271_46	Same	11:26 am	Panoramic, "Jack Clipper" headstone in far left of image		Allen Driver
271_47	Same	11:27 am	Panoramic		Allen Driver
271_48	Same	11:28 am	Panoramic, "Jack Clipper" headstone in center foreground		Allen Driver
271_49	Same	11:36 am	Utility post (numbered 166) closest to "entrance" of the cemetery (near fallen tree at utility right-of-way)		Allen Driver
271_50	Same	11:40 am	Utility post encountered following right-of-way back towards River Road		Allen Driver
271_51	Same	11:45 am	Another utility post on the path back to River Road		Allen Driver
271_52	Same	11:50 am	Last utility pole encountered before leaving the right-of-way to cut through woods to the field.		Allen Driver
271_53	Same	11:54 am	View towards River Road (north) from utility right-of-way showing blocked and overgrown "path"		Allen Driver
271_54	Same	9:45 am	The "search group" in front of Seneca Community Church on Berryville Road, Top row (left to right): Nick Brame, Ryan Pike, Joe Scopin, Ruth Chesler; Bottom row (left to right): Ingrid Fraley, Tom Kelley, Allen Driver		Anne Allnutt
271_55	Same	9:45 am	Tighter shot of previous photo		Anne Allnutt