



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: Ball Family Cemetery	Inventory ID: 279
Alternate name:	
Address:	
Website:	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: 39.050543 Longitude: -77.149947 (presumed location of burials)	
FindaGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2671562	

BURIAL SITE TYPE

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

BURIAL SITE EVALUATION

Setting/location description: <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Wooded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Grave markers only	
General condition (See conditions sheet): <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	
Is there a formal entrance? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Accessibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Inaccessible <input type="checkbox"/> By foot <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimal <input 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: 2 Date ranges: 1855–1862

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

- **Grave markers were moved off original site in 1970s and stored at current location (See attached page for detailed information)**
- **This site is situated ~100 yards north of current location of the grave markers.**
- **Original burial site appears to be on the (now) grassy lawn that crosses the property lines of lots 39 and 41 in Block E of "Montrose Woods."**
- **The only evidence of the original burial ground site is a pair of large cedar trees.**

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: Eileen McGuckian and Philip Cantelon	
Relationship to burial site: Custodians of grave markers	Advocacy contact: _____
Address:	
City:	State:
Phone:	ZIP Code:

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

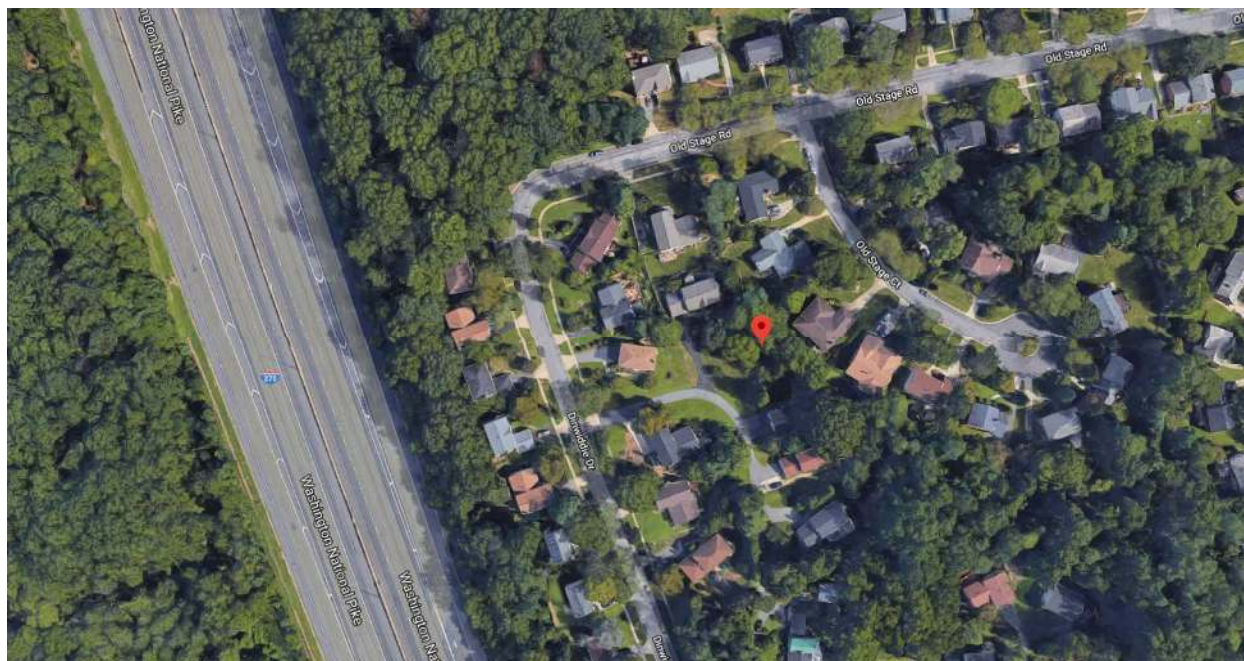
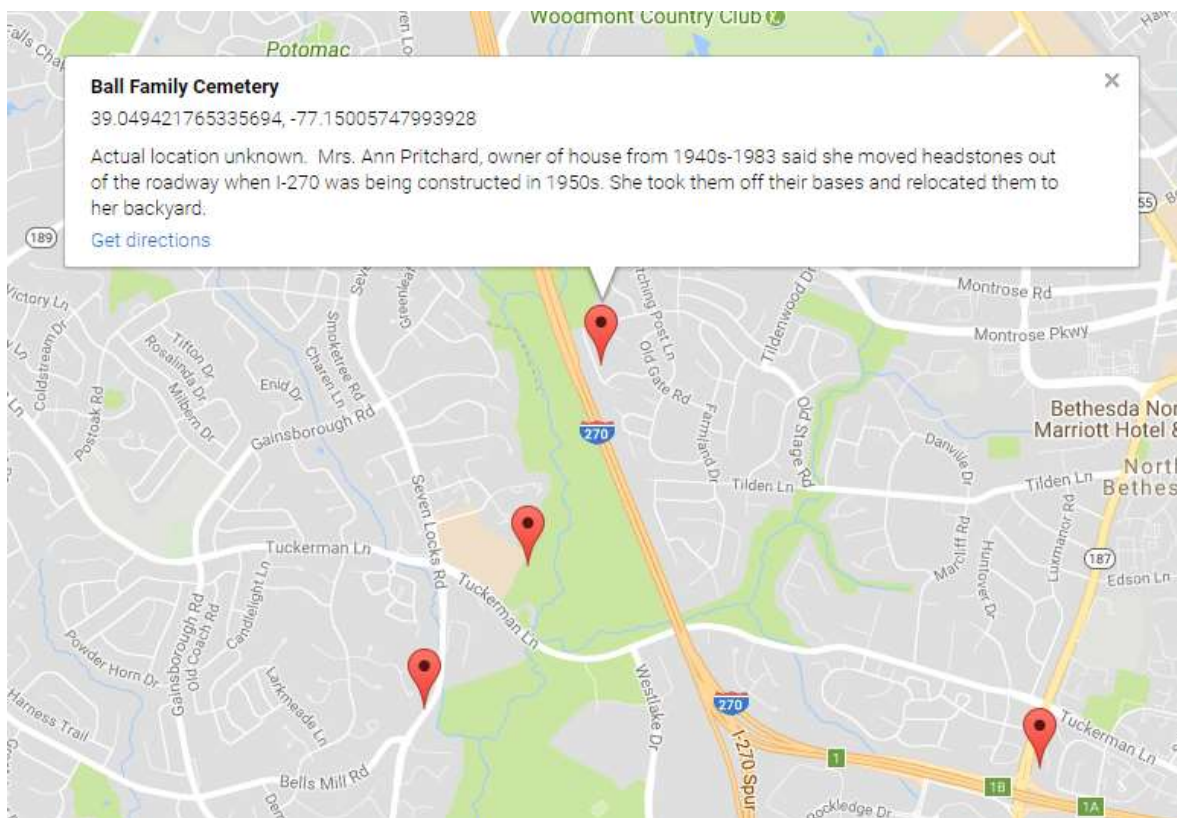
Name: Ellie Hagner	Survey Date: 6/17/2018	Time spent: 240 min
Email:	Photographer: Ellie Hagner	

COMMENTS

- Suggestions for follow-up:
- **Conduct GPR and non-invasive archaeological study in the presumed original burial site area**
 - **Work with residents on whose lots this site is located; Lot 39 – Maurice and Foutni Naccache, 11835 Dinwiddie Drive; Lot 42 – Bradford Lang, 11831 Dinwiddie Drive, Rockville MD 20852.**
- Safety issues, invasive vegetation removal, fence removal/restoration, signage, trash, erosion, vandalism:
- N/A**
- Anything of significance about this cemetery?
- **Burial ground of early family in this area**

SOURCES

- Cite sources used and resources available:
- **See attached page for list**





HISTORY:

Ball Family Cemetery ID#279 Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Revisited 2018

BURIAL SITE CONTACT:

Eileen McGuckian and Philip Cantelon

RELATIONSHIP TO BURIAL SITE:

Stones and bases are in their home

COMMENTS:

Inscriptions: *Lawrence Ball Died June 10, 1855* *Eliza Ball Died Nov. 24, 1862*

For more than a century, the Ball family cemetery was located on the farm owned by the O'Neale family (1865-1946) then Prichard family (1946-1983) just south of Montrose Road. In the late 1970s, two Ball grave markers, with bases, were moved about 100 yards to their current location at the farmhouse property (owned by Cantelon and McGuckian 1983-present).

When Ann Prichard sold the farmhouse at 11807 Dinwiddie Drive to Philip Cantelon in 1983, she explained how the markers came to be on her last 1.1-acre parcel that encircles the house. After the interstate highway (now I-270) was constructed in the mid-1950s, the Prichards prepared to sell off parcels of their 68 acres, in three phases, for development by others. In the late 1970s, before selling off the last section of "Montrose Woods," with assistance Mrs. Prichard loaded the two Ball markers into her wagon, pulled them about 100' down the hill, and set them up near the patio in her back yard. In 1979 the Prichards sold off the final portion near their farmhouse for construction of houses on Dinwiddie Drive and Old Gate Place, platted by Norsab Inc. as Blocks E and G of Montrose Woods.

None of the deed or plat documents mention the cemetery, but three individuals alive in 2018 recall it on this site. In 1954, daughter Susie Prichard, then 14 years old, wrote a school paper about the "Small Cemetery on 'I Will Not Yet I Will.'" She described it as approximately 5 acres, overgrown, with remains of two headstones and two large old trees, and also 21 rock markers. Mrs. Frances Cressman moved to 11 Old Stage Court in 1975 and was aware of her husband's interest. Tim Mertz, who lived nearby and delivered *Sentinel* newspapers to the Prichards late 1960s-1972, recalls them distinctly; he described the burial area as just north of the Prichard driveway from Old Stage Court to the farmhouse, with 2 prominent inscribed markers, 6-10 crude fieldstones with no inscriptions in a definite pattern in 2 rows, pine and cedar trees, and the area kept trimmed and free of brush by the Prichards. The fieldstones and inscribed stones were about 15' apart.

It is unknown whether any remains were discovered during the 1980-82 construction of homes at 5, 7, and 9 Old Stage Court and at 11831 and 11835 Dinwiddie Drive on the lane leading from Dinwiddie Drive to the Prichard farmhouse. The Ball burial site appears to have been situated on what is now the lawns of the latter two properties.

During the Prichards' ownership (1946-1983), the house parcel on the land patent *I Will Not Yet I Will* (1769) was reduced from a 68-acre farm to a 1.1-acre lot. After Col. Mason Prichard passed away in 1981, Ann Prichard moved to Bethesda and allowed family members to live in the historic house for several years while a builder subdivided and added new homes on the lane and on Old Stage Court. When she decided to sell in 1983, she selected a buyer who agreed to respect the markers. In the late 1980s, a conservator suggested that the stones would be better preserved indoors so Eileen and Phil moved them onto an enclosed back porch. When Mrs. Prichard returned to the house a few times before her death in 1988, she noted that the grave markers were safe.

MCCI-R surveyor Ellie Hagner and owner Eileen McGuckian independently conducted research on the Balls, their neighbors, and others who had owned the Prichard property, then combined their findings for this report.

Ball and O'Neale/O'Neill family members were neighbors and relations over almost two centuries. Lawrence Ball was born in Montgomery County in 1791. Eliza Willson Ball was born in 1805 in Virginia. They married on January 13, 1824, and by 1850 had nine children and owned two female slaves. After Lawrence's death in 1855, Eliza brought the family of William T. Dove (1838-1922) and his wife Rachel Rebecca Howser Dove (1840-1911) into her household and to work as farm laborers.

An ancestor, John Ball, had owned property in *I Will Not Yet I Will* in the 18th century, but lost it in a tax sale to John O'Neale. On the 1865 Martenet & Bond map and 1879 Hopkins Atlas, the farm showed as belonging to Isaac O'Neill (1821-1902), a deputy in Montgomery County Court who was related to the Ball family. Isaac's widow Mary willed the log house and 68 acres to their youngest child, John Henry O'Neale. John (1876-1938) constructed a two-story vernacular frame house in 1918 for his bride Nellie Lethbridge O'Neale (1896-1987), and continued to farm here. Nellie and their two sons tore down the log house before they sold the property to the Prichards in 1946. Since 1983, the farmhouse and 1.1 acres has been owned and occupied by Philip Cantelon and Eileen McGuckian.

Sources:

Recollections of Nellie O'Neale, Ann Prichard, Phil Cantelon, Susie Prichard Pace, Frances Cressman, and Tim Mertz
Montgomery County Land Records, Marriage Records, Wills, Land Patents
Maps, Atlases, Plats, O'Neale and Prichard photographs
U.S. Census Records, 1850 and 1860; Slave census schedule, 1850

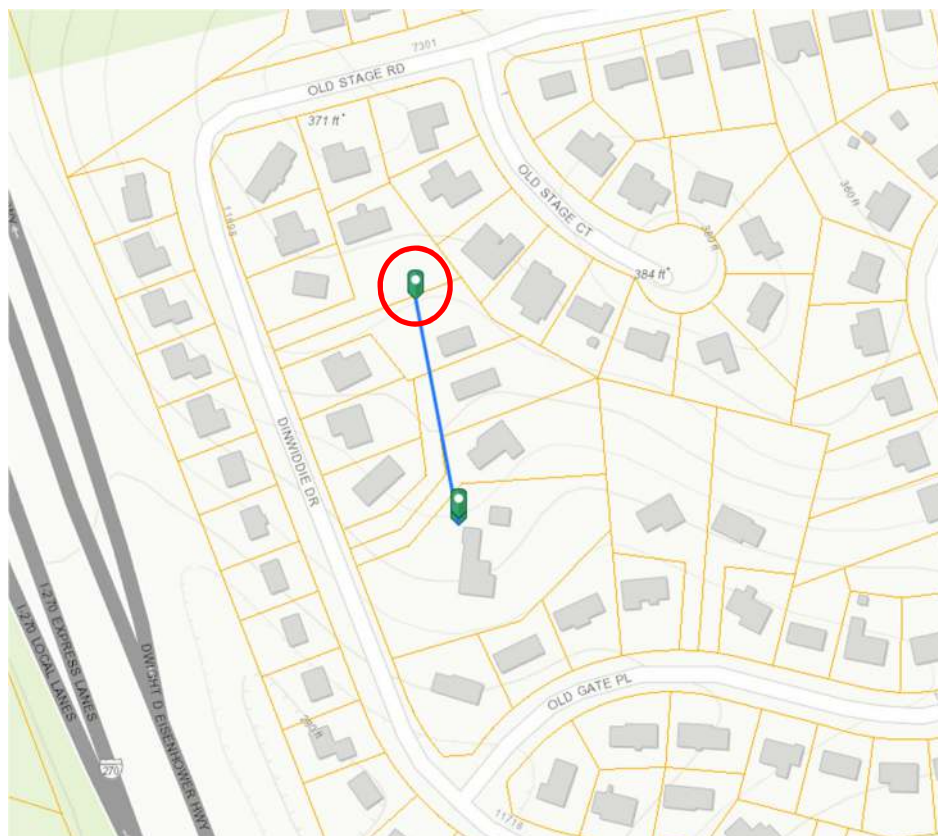
UPDATE: November 5, 2018

Based on a phone conversation between Eileen McGuckian, the current homeowner where the Ball grave markers are stored, and Ann (Susie) Prichard Pace, who lives in Richmond. Born in 1940, she is the younger Prichard daughter who lived in this house from 1949-50 through 1961.

She stated that the location of the Ball cemetery was about **100 yards up the hill from the house**, to the south of Old Stage Road. There is a clump of cedar trees and a bit of fencing still there. Nearby, when the family moved there, was a large barn (falling down), and later a little barn built by the Prichards for their old horse.

Susie recalled only 2 grave markers (which have been stored), perhaps a few fieldstones too. Her mother did not consider digging up the graves as she moved the markers out of the way of the new development. The Prichards sold off land for what became this subdivision of Walnut Woods in 3 parcels, the first in the early 1960s (but didn't build right away), then more later, then last in the early 1980s (on the private lane to the house).

Seen currently at this location are two good sized trees, perhaps 40' apart, which may be cedars, and there's a bit of split rail fence nearby (which probably isn't old).



100-yard mark, north of the residence



1963 aerial



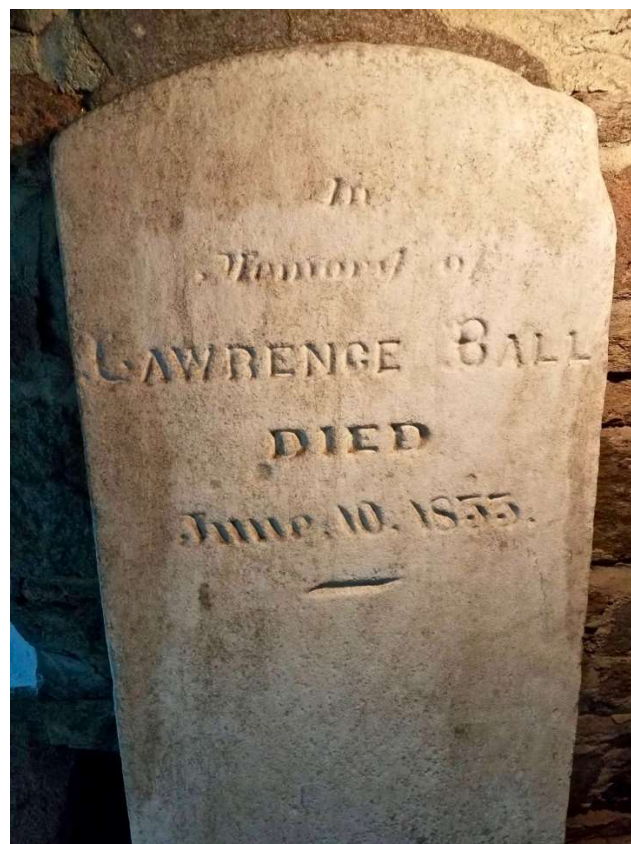
1988 aerial



Grove of trees surrounding possible cemetery, facing east

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

Cemetery Name: Ball Family Cemetery		Inventory ID: 279
Photographer: Ellie Hagner		Date: 6/17/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing (Ex: detail of wall around Carr plot facing North)
	1	Lawrence Ball grave marker and base
	2	Eliza Ball grave marker and base



1. Lawrence Ball grave marker and base



2. Eliza Ball grave marker and base