



Photo by Bob Roller

Harold Howard, left, and John Bowie Jr. rake leaves and debris away from gravestones in the family cemetery on Howard Chapel Road. On Friday the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will place a marker in the cemetery in memory of the original African-American Community of Howard Chapel.

Local cemetery will be preserved

by Healan Barrow
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Thanks to the Afro-American Newspapers in Baltimore, a small family cemetery on Howard Chapel Road, near Unity, will be preserved for future generations.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will place a marker at the Howard family cemetery on Dec. 11 at 11 a.m. at the site, as part of the 100th anniversary of the newspapers.

The Baltimore-based newspaper owes its existence to the Howard family and in later years inspired one Howard-family descendant to search for his family's roots.

Harold Howard was a sophomore at Morgan State University in 1956 when he saw an article in the newspaper about Enoch

George Howard.

"Enoch George was my great-grandfather," said Howard. "For the next 36 years I went about reconstructing the family history."

He discovered the connection between his family and the newspaper and eventually found descendants of long-lost family members in Canada.

Enoch George was born in 1814 as a slave. He eventually became the property of John and Sarah Griffith and served as an overseer on their estate until Sarah freed him in 1850.

He married a slave from the Gaither estate and the couple purchased her freedom in 1853. It was not until 1860 that they were able to buy the freedom of their four children.

Enoch George had an unusual
(See HOWARD, A-18)