



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

## BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Name: <b>Isaac Shoemaker Family Cemetery</b>  | Inventory ID: <b>324</b>     |
| Alternate name:   |                              |
| Address: <b>Attached to lots at 5200 Murray Road and to 5202 Murray Rd, Chevy Chase, Md., 20815</b> |                              |
| Website:  |                              |
| GPS coordinates: Latitude: <b>38.958535</b>   | Longitude: <b>-77.092492</b> |
| FindaGrave:   |                              |

## BURIAL SITE TYPE

Category:  Religious  Community  Family  African American  Other:

## BURIAL SITE EVALUATION

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Setting/location description: <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  | Approximate number of burials: 5 known burials  | Date range: 1853 or earlier through the end of the 19th century |

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

The Isaac Shoemaker family burial ground is 1/6 acre in size. When the Isaac Shoemaker family farm (established in 1839) was sold in 1923 (T.L. Dawson and A.E. Shoemaker, L368, F203), the deed of sale excluded the burial plot of 1/7 acre along the Perry Boundary line (now the border of Brookdale North with Wohlshire).

When the land was subdivided for development in 1938, Parcel A (Plat 905 Block 4) excluded 1/6 acre, for the 1/7 acre burial plot as well as the right of way on Murray Road along the southeast side of the burial ground, which served as access. Within the ROW is a short flight of steps from the road up to the burial ground.

Traces of vinca remain in the burial ground. There are no visible headstones, but two stone markers about 4" wide and 25- 30" long buried vertically within the burial plot, with only a few inches of stone above ground, were found here in 1983 by Richard Erdman. As Quakers, Isaac Shoemaker and his wife would not have used headstones; their graves were once marked by rose bushes. However, family members remember seeing headstones for additional related graves many years ago (per Nancy Shoemaker Werner and Albert Shoemaker family archives at Georgetown University Library).

## BURIAL SITE CONTACT

|  |                 |  |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Name: Ms Susan Werner Scofield and her mother Ms. Nancy Shoemaker Werner   |                 |  |
| Relationship to burial site: Nancy Shoemaker Werner is the great great granddaughter of Isaac Shoemaker. Susan Scofield is the third great granddaughter of Isaac Shoemaker. |                 | Advocacy contact: Susan Scofield, <a href="mailto:swscofield@gmail.com">swscofield@gmail.com</a> ; scofieldlaw@gmail.com |
| Address:   |                 | Phone:   |
| City:  | State: Maryland | ZIP Code:  |

## BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Name: Amy Rispin          | Survey Date: 05/25/2018 |
| Address:                  | Phone:                  |
| Email:                    |                         |
| Photographer: Paul Rispin |                         |

**OWNERSHIP OF BURIAL SITE:** (as shown on Tax Map HM33)  
**5200 Murray Road, south half of cemetery:** (tax ID#07-03200081) Paramount Construction, Inc. 15809 Paramount Drive, Rockville, MD 20855  
**5202 Murray Road, north half of cemetery:** Richard + Sibyl Erdman (tax ID#07-5101564745)  
**0 Keokuk Street, 1/7 acre Burial site reservation:** Descendants of Isaac Shoemaker



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### COMMENTS

**Suggestions for follow-up:**

On May 4, 2018, attorneys for the owner of the residential parcel at 5200 Murray Road, Chevy Chase, MD, filed Civil Action No. V447344 regarding the cemetery. Susan Werner Scofield and Nancy Shoemaker Werner filed a Rule 2-214 Motion to Intervene. Descendants of Isaac and Ann Shoemaker as well as the neighboring community of Brookdale are concerned that the Isaac Shoemaker family burial ground is under threat of imminent destruction. Court date: September 17-18, 2019.

**Safety issues, invasive vegetation removal, fence removal/restoration, signage, trash, erosion, vandalism:** Nancy Shoemaker Werner recalls seeing headstones at the cemetery when she was younger, but according to a neighbor with whom she and her father Maynard Shoemaker spoke many years ago, they were removed by vandals in the mid-20th century. The burial site has been exempted from property taxation for at least half a century, as certified by MDAT in 1972 and 2017.

**Anything of significance about this cemetery?** The family burial ground is a memorial of the 140 acre Shoemaker family farm, established in Montgomery County in 1839 by Isaac Shoemaker, a Quaker who brought new agricultural methods to exhausted tobacco land. The land was farmed by the Shoemaker family until World War I, and the burial site has continued to be visited by multiple generations of the family up to the current day. Known 19<sup>th</sup> century burials: Ann Williams Shoemaker, wife of Isaac Shoemaker (deceased 1853); Isaac Shoemaker (deceased 1883); a minor son, Phineas Shoemaker (died between 1850 and 1860); Eliza Summers (neighbor); and Sallie McCoy (family servant). Joseph Birch Funeral Home in Georgetown listed the burial of Isaac Shoemaker on August 12, 1883 at "farm, Md." Ann and Isaac Shoemaker were Quakers and, customarily, their graves would not have been marked by headstones. During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sallie Perry Shoemaker, who lived on Shoemaker Lane in Bethesda, bore witness to the presence of the graves of Eliza Summers and Sallie McCoy.

### SOURCES

**Cite sources used and resources available:** Exclusion of the family burial ground from sale of the Isaac Shoemaker farm. The deed from Dawson and Albert Shoemaker to Francis Bennet Poe ( liber 368 folio 203, 1925), explicitly excluded "one seventh (1/7) of an acre containing the small burial plot located on the Perry boundary line near the river road". When Donald Woodward subdivided the farm for development in 1938, the burial plot was clearly excluded from subdivision; it is delineated on block 4 of plat 949 between plots 2 and 3 on Murray Road and marked "RESERVATION – Not included in this subdivision". The RESERVATION includes the 1/7 acre burial ground with its access from Murray Road. The Perry farm boundary line is at the current rear property line of the 5200 and 5202 properties. Other sources: Land and Tax Records, subdivision records, letters and affidavits, Joseph F. Birch Funeral Home records (Georgetown), Shoemaker family archives at Georgetown University, family recollections.

**ATTACHMENTS TO INVENTORY FORM:** History and chronology, 1938 subdivision plat 949, tax map HM343 (1994), 5 photographs and the photo log. More documents are available.

