



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID: HP-366
Name: Blue Mash Cemetery

Description:
Small 19th-century family and community burial ground

Community: Religious: Family: African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials: 1+ Visible Markers: Formal Entrance: Cemetery Sign: Active:

Earliest Year: 1854 Latest Year: 1946 Is the Site Extant?:

Is the Location Sensitive?: Sensitive Contact: Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence: Approximate Location Confirmed:

Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content. Links provided for informational purposes only)

2006 Survey Summary:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

FindaGrave.com:

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

No

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

Notes:

The name is based on an African American community called Blue Mash or Blue Marsh. The cemetery is also called "The Simpson Burial Plot" in deeds. The burial date range is not known. The earliest year is based on the date of a grave marker found nearby, the latest year is based on sale of the property outside the family. The location is based on the boundaries of the 25-acre parcel that included the burial site reservation, and proximity of a dwelling shown on 1908 and 1923 USGS maps.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale:

Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date:

GIS Source Datum:

Boundary Type:

Horizontal Accuracy:

GIS Data Source:

Additional Information:

The Simpson family cemetery is located within Blue Mash or Blue Marsh, an African American community also sometimes called Jackson City. The name may reflect the relatively poorly drained, marshy soils found here. The 1908 USGS Rockville map shows houses along a dirt road leading from Claysville to Mt. Zion. The Oak Grove AME Zion Church and Cemetery (formerly Mt. Carmel) established ca 1878 was located immediately to the east.

A 1983 oral history of the community suggests that it was established “prior to 1865 by freedmen from the nearby Riggs plantation.” Lands once belonging to the Riggs family (including the Riggs Family Cemetery) are to the immediate northwest. According to the oral history report, the population grew after 1865 and was renamed Jackson City after a resident named Jack Jackson. Other family names associated with the community included “Barnes, Bowings, Simpson, Thomas, Williams, and Johnson.” Apparently much of the community burned in the 1930s (Fly and Fly 1983).

The core of the community appears to center around a 56-acre parcel that members of the Nugent and Bond families acquired from the estate of Gerard Brooke in 1846 (STS 2 Folio 87). Those African American families appear in the 1840 and 1850 Censuses for the Cracklin District, headed by Joseph Nugent and Basil Bond. The community may be older still: there is a free family of color headed by John Bond listed in the same district in the 1820 Census.

What became known as the Simpson Family burial ground was in the northern half of the original 56-acre tract purchased by the Nugents and Bonds. Margaret Simpson purchased 25 acres of this land from Brice Howard in 1879 in the aftermath of an 1871 court case, Rebecca Nugent and others vs Elias Nugent and others (Liber EBP 8, Folio 448, Liber EBP 225 Folio 225).

Margaret and Perry Simpson appear in the 1880 Census for the Cracklin District living in the household of Margaret’s son Edward Fleet (a farmer). Per the census, other members of Edward Fleet’s household included Mary Fleet his sister (a teacher), Margaret Evely, and Peter Buttler, Martha Fisher (house work), and Edward Fleet (day work). The census lists all household members as people of color. The same census page shows numerous members of the Bond family living in neighboring households. The Bonds owned the land to the immediate south of the Simpsons within the tract the Nugents and Bonds had bought in 1846.

Margaret Simpson died intestate in 1910 according to a 1911 mortgage (Liber 220 Folio 441). Edward Fleet acquired his mother’s 25 acres in 1916: “excepting about one (1) acre which is to be reserved as a family burying ground (Liber 260 Folio 473).” The burial site reservation appears again in a later 1946 deed where it was called “the Simpson Burial Plot (Liber 1039 Folio 344).”

The number and identify of those buried in this cemetery is unknown. However, an archaeological survey for what was then the Fieldcrest Golf Club (Lawrence and Bailey 1995) found a possible grave marker within a rubble pile near possible foundation remains at site 18-MO-423. This site is located about 500 feet south of the parcel with the burial site deed reservation on land that historically belonged to the Bond family. Given the context, the archaeologists interpreted the marker as having been displaced, so it is possible it was originally within the Simpson family cemetery. The inscription on the stone reads: “ACJ [or AGJ] 1854 NO2.” The archaeologists interpreted this as a marker with the initials ACJ or AGJ, with a death year of 1854, possibly November 2.

It isn’t possible to say for certain who ACJ was, but the census records provide some possible candidates. One may be Ann Jones (51, white) whose household appears in the 1850 census in Cracklin but is absent from the same household in 1860. A better candidate may be Anna Jones also listed in the 1850 Census for Cracklin but missing in 1860. She is listed as the head of household, white, aged 65, and living with Josiah Jones (aged 40, a possible son) and Susan Jones

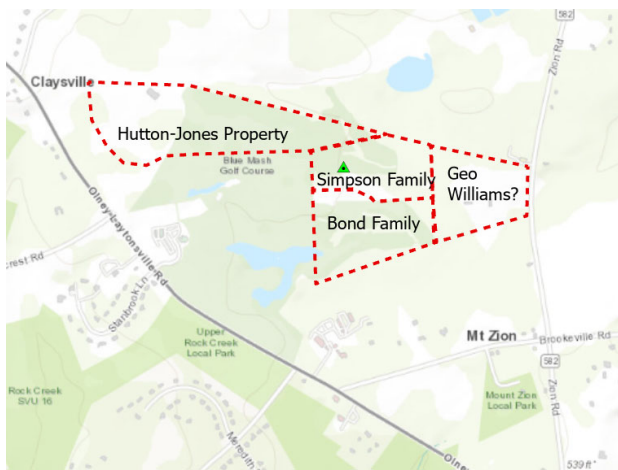
(aged 24). Josiah Jones (now aged 50) repeats in the 1860 census but without Anna (or anyone else) living with him. Anna's household is listed immediately after the Bond and Nugent families in the census, suggesting she was a neighbor, and deeds show Josiah Jones owning land along the same unpaved road near the Nugent and Bond families.

References:

Fly, Everett L. and La Barbara Wigfall Fly. "Northeastern Montgomery County Black Oral History Study." Entourage Inc., August 1983.

Lawrence, John W. and Daniel N. Bailey "Phase I Archaeological Survey, Fieldcrest Golf Club, Laytonsville, Montgomery County, Maryland." Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc., 1995. Maryland Historical Trust Report # MO 137.

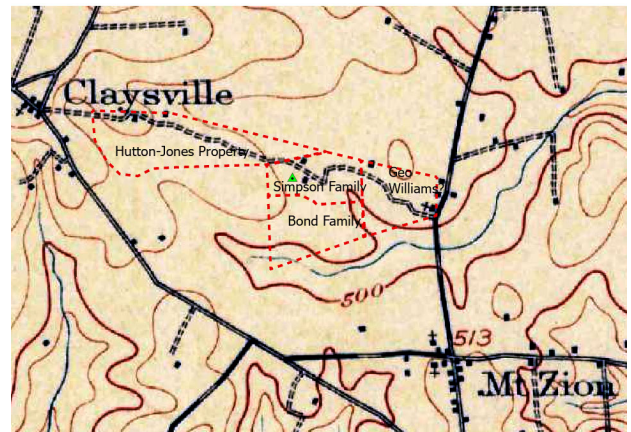
Images:



HP-366-01

Approximate location on contemporary map with boundaries of 19th-century farms

Date 10/22/2025
 Photographer Brian Crane



HP-366-02

Approximate location and 19th-century farm boundaries on 1908 USGS map

Date 10/22/2025
 Photographer Brian Crane

Approximate location on 2025 aerial photograph

Date 02/10/2026
 Photographer Brian Crane



HP-366-03

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR