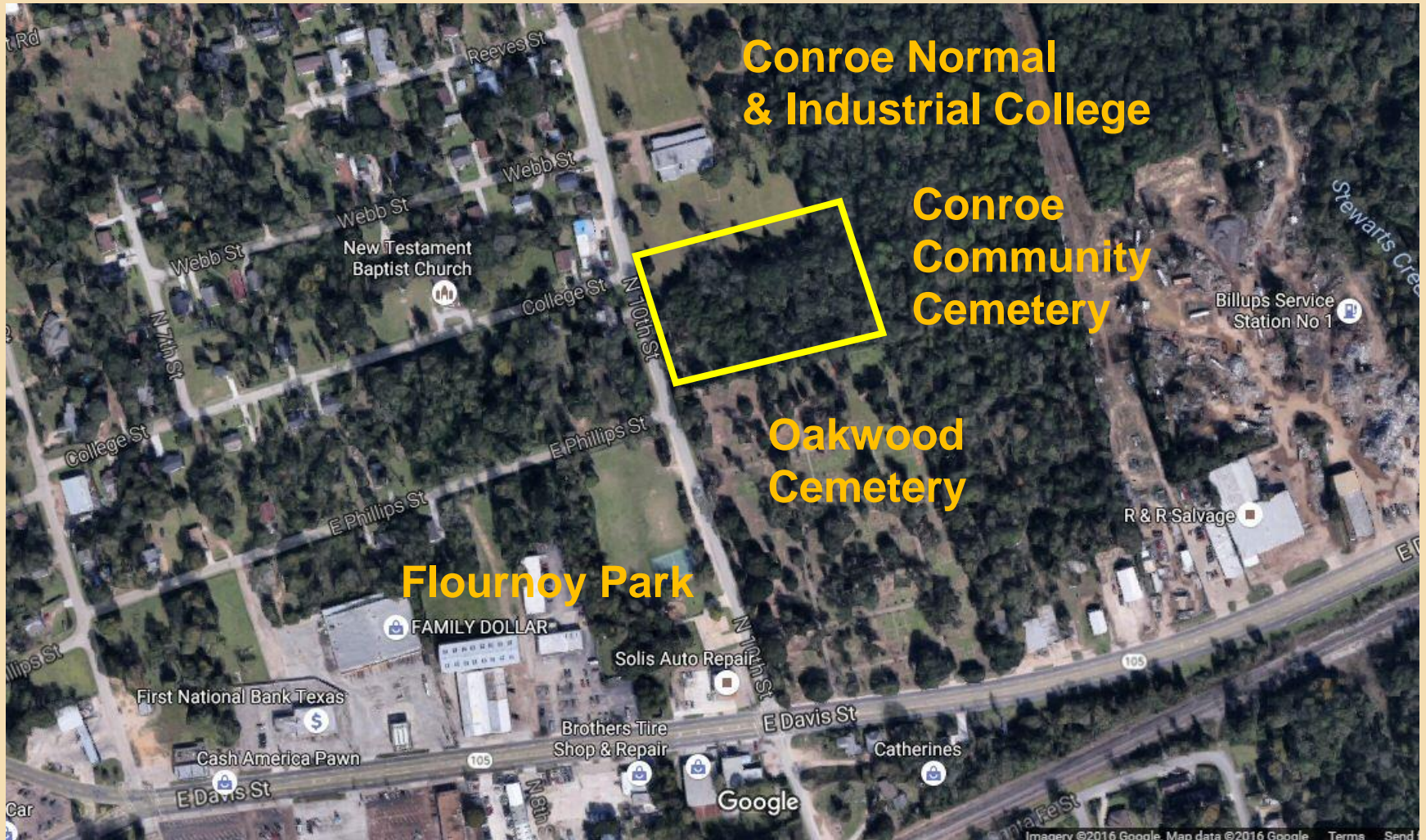


***BACK TO LIFE — COMMUNITY
PROJECT RESTORES HISTORIC
AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY***

*Presented by
John Meredith*

HOW TO FIND CONROE COMMUNITY CEMETERY



439 North 10th Street, Conroe, Texas – Google Earth September 2017

HOW THE PROJECT BEGAN

In 2011, while transcribing grave markers in Oakwood Cemetery, Jon Edens looked across the north fence and saw...



Dora Armstrong's Gravesite. Photo by Jon Edens, 3 Sep 2011

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Among the black community and on death certificates the cemetery is simply known as the
 - ♦ “No-Name Cemetery”
 - ♦ “Conroe Cemetery”
 - ♦ “Community Cemetery”
- The earliest known burial is May 1892 of an “Unknown” Armstrong and the last burial of J. C. Pitts occurred September 26, 1966
- The cemetery was transcribed on April 7, 1978 by Oveta & Horace Wright that listed 36 known burials and 7 marked but unknown.

LAND HISTORY

- Originally part of the Lemuel Smith A-526 survey
- Changed hands several times until Henry J. Runge bought it from the Gulf Colorado Santa Fe Railway Company in 1889
- Henry J. Runge sold 40 acres of land to Laura Henderson in 1898. The deed states: "... said block Containing 40 acres of land more or less, from which are to be deducted about 8 acres for right of way of railroad and a Cemetery"

in Vol 17 page 517 said block Containing 40 acres of land more or less, from which are to be deducted about 8 acres for right of way of railroad and a Cemetery To Have and to Hold, all and singular, the

GOOGLE EARTH VIEW SEPT. 2012



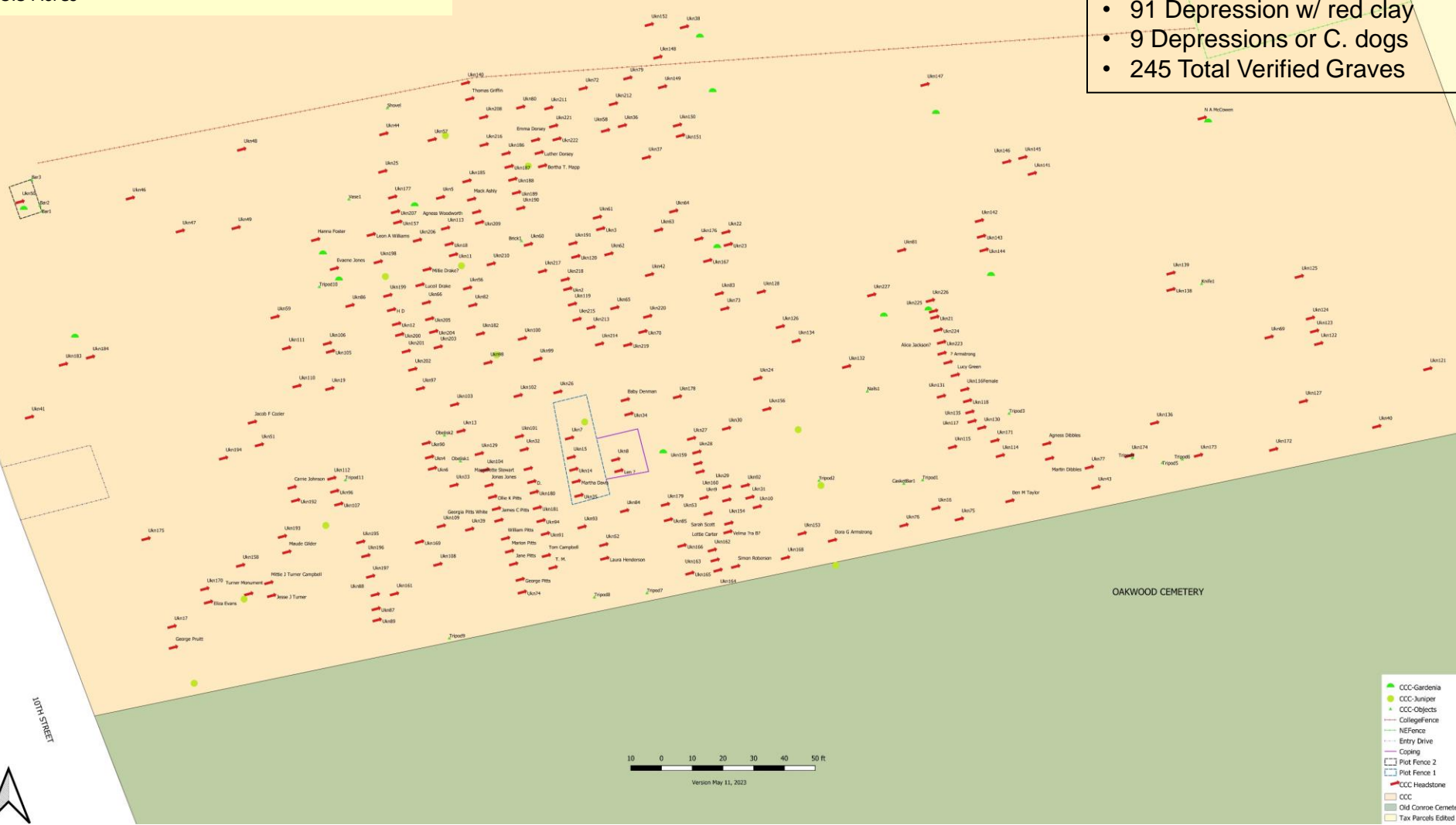
Fenced Entrance

CONROE COMMUNITY CEMETERY RESTORATION PROJECT

CONROE COMMUNITY CEMETERY

- 47 Known burials (31 on 1978 Wright's survey)
- 107 Marked but unknown
 - 59 Metal Markers
 - 48 Objects/Unreadable
- 91 Depression w/ red clay
- 9 Depressions or C. dogs
- 245 Total Verified Graves

Map Version May 11, 2023
3.5 Acres



Plotted by John Meredith

WHERE TO START

- Preparation:
 1. Involve a forester or arborist, research the local soil conditions & literature search
 2. Research local ordinances on fencing, signage and tree conservation regulations
 3. Genealogical research
- Establish a multiyear plan:
 1. Timeline
 2. Budget
- Survey & Secure the property
- Safely and slowly clean the property
- Evaluate Unnamed Graves:
 1. Lidar, Ground Penetrating Radar, Cadaver dogs, soil survey, plant survey, metal detection
- Create a map of burials and plants
- Outreach Techniques
 1. Set up a Facebook Page & website, contact newspapers to advertise events or publish the history of some of those buried there & anything that can bring the work to light.
 2. Contact the local Lions Club, churches, Historical Commission, NAACP, schools and historical groups and offer to speak about the cemetery and to see if you can generate interest.
 3. Put together a diverse team with different skills that are motivated about history and honoring our ancestors

PREPARATION

LIBRARY & HISTORICAL RESEARCH

- Research burial customs.
 1. Grave Matters: The Preservation of African-American Cemeteries
<https://www.chicora.org/pdfs/Grave%20Matters%20-%20The%20Preservation%20of%20African%20American%20Cemeteries.pdf>
- Library & Online Research
 1. Soil Survey
 2. Burials found in 1978 survey by Horace and Ovetta Wright
 3. Newspaper articles on 1992 clean up and Knights and Daughters of Tabor, International Order of 12
 4. “General Laws of the International Order of 12”
 5. “History of Conroe Independent School District”
 6. Texas Natural Resources Information System
 1. Lidar
 2. Aerial Photographs
 7. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1923 & 1938

EVALUATE THE LOCAL FLORA

- Contact a local arborist or forestry official to help you categorize the flora of the cemetery
- Establish which species are invasive, the age of the trees, relationships to burials and plan on leaving a diverse flora.
- When preparing a map include the significant trees and shrubbery to evaluate spacial relationships with burials and possible pathways
- Research burial customs.
 - ❖ **Grave Matters: The Preservation of African-American Cemeteries**
<https://www.chicora.org/pdfs/Grave%20Matters%20-%20The%20Preservation%20of%20African%20American%20Cemeteries.pdf>

PLANTS TO NOT DISTURB

- Any tree or bush marked with an orange tape
- Trees and bushes that have been associated with identified graves



GARDENIA



SAW PALMETTO



NANDINA



NATIVE GRASS



YUCCA

RESOURCES

- **Preserving Historic Cemeteries, Texas Preservation Guidelines, Texas Historical Commission**
<https://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/cemetery-preservation>
- **Illinois Cemetery Preservation Handbooks**
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/Preserve/Cemetery/Pages/handbook.aspx>
- **Grave Matters: The Preservation of African-American Cemeteries**
<https://www.chicora.org/pdfs/Grave%20Matters%20-%20The%20Preservation%20of%20African%20American%20Cemeteries.pdf>
- **Cemetery Lawn Maintenance**
<https://chicora.org/lawn-maintenance.html>
- **Stone Cleaning Best Practices**
<https://cemeteryconservatorsunitedstandards.org/>
- **National Park Service**
<https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/>

CEMETERY CLEAN UP

VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS

Boy Scouts



Eagle Scout Project



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints



Buffalo Soldiers



Local Community



Local Businesses



City of Conroe



Students



PROCEDURES

- Sign a waiver form
- **Always be aware of everyone around you!**
- Teams of 3 with one cutting & two carrying to brush pile
- Remove only brush and trees under 6" in diameter
- Do not cut down trees or plants with orange ribbon around them
- Take brush and trees off at ground level. We have to mow and maintain eventually
- Ask if you have any questions
- Don't move any objects at this time until we can properly evaluate their significance
- We will provide lunch & water and will need servers if you don't want to cut and haul

BLACK CEMETERY BURIAL PRACTICES

- Black cemeteries have typically used plants, objects & offerings to mark graves. This may be our only evidence of a grave. If it's disturbed, it is lost forever.
- We have to be very careful in clearing so as not to remove features that would have had significance in the lives & culture of those buried or help us identify graves.
- Plants are the one of the main items we see in the Conroe Community Cemetery.
- We have seen broken pitchers & railroad rails to mark graves and several are identified by a small steel marker with no name visible now.

DO NOT MOVE OR REMOVE!!!

IF YOU DO, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE!!

- Our Motto: “Do No Harm” Leave it where it is if there is a question and ask a supervisor first!!

OBJECTS WE DON'T WANT TO REMOVE



UNKNOWN 11



UNKNOWN 8



UNKNOWN 12



UNKNOWN 18



UNKNOWN 20



RUBBLE or GRAVE?

PROGRESS MADE



West side of cemetery
August 2019



Southwest side of
cemetery, February 2019



North side of cemetery
September 2011



West side of cemetery
today



Southwest side of
cemetery today



North side of cemetery
today

PROGRESS MADE



Interior Brush



Turner Family
Monument – April 2019



Dora Armstrong's
Grave – March 2019



Brush Cleared
Today



Turner Family
Monument Today



Dora Armstrong's
Grave Today

HEADSTONE PRESERVATION

- **If you are cleaning or restoring headstones, attend training before doing it.** There are lots of things that cause more damage than good and many untrained people offer to clean headstones that are just using the quickest and cheapest methods. Our motto is “**Do no harm**”. I would rather leave a stone as is than risk losing it forever. Your state or local historical commission should be able to help find a course and another great resource is <https://cemeteryconservatorsunitedstandards.org/>
- Cautions
 - **SAFETY, SAFETY & MORE SAFETY, HEADSTONES CAN KILL AND CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY**
 - Ensure stone is stable
 - Weather not too hot or freezing, water & heat cause stress & freezing water expands
 - Do not clean a friable or fractured stone
 - Make sure you have enough water to thoroughly clean and then rinse the stone several times.
 - NEVER use household cleaners, bleach, metal tools, scouring pads, wire brushes, power tools, pressure washers or nylon brushes.
 - Less is more
 - Do not encase broken headstones in cement

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

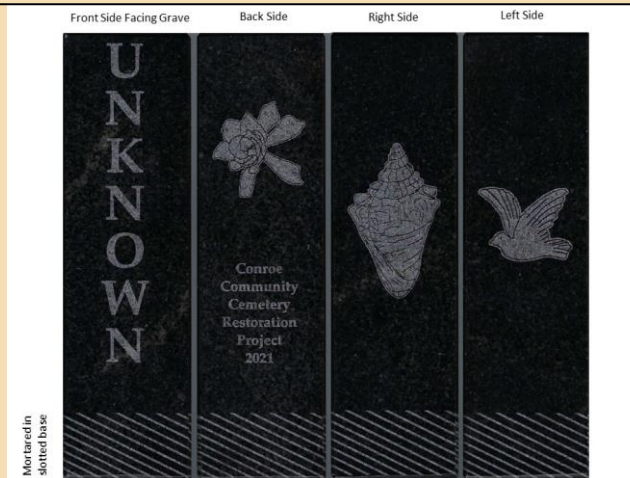
- Test soil conditions for fertility and pH
- Do not spray of broadcast chemical herbicides. Herbicides drift and are acidic so they will damage headstones
- In dense brush conditions cut the brush off and paint stump with a herbicide
- Mowing can significantly and permanently damage headstones
- Around headstones it is best to mow within 1 foot of the marker and then use hand shears or the thinnest weed eater strings possible, no more than .09 inches.
- Only walk behind push or self propelled mowers are recommended. Riding lawn mower operators tend to move too fast and cause more harm
- Always have a supervisor during cemetery maintenance

*EVALUATE UNNAMED
GRAVES*

EVALUATE UNNAMED GRAVES

- Three tiered system of confidence
 1. Proven graves have at least two factors indicating a burial including a depression, temporary metal marker in situ, burial goods, overturned soil profile, and cadaver dog hit. As more Ground Penetrating Radar is completed this will also factor in.
 2. Probable graves have lower confidence metal burial goods, diffuse or no depression, temporary metal markers not found in situ, and grave goods found on the surface. These can be high graded by GPR or an overturned soil profile
 3. Possible graves have only a depression and/or cadaver dog hits. These can be high graded by GPR or an overturned soil profile.

Proven graves will have an Unknown Marker placed on the grave



CADAVER DOGS

- We used both K9 Search and Rescue of Texas and Special K9s on 3 occasions which resulted in 32 cadaver dog hits.
- 4 potential burials were confirmed by both sets of dogs
- 5 hits were on marked graves
- 5 hits were not graves
- The other 22 hits have been confirmed by burial goods, temporary markers or soil disturbance



CONROE SERIES SOIL PROFILE

Off Grave Profile

On Grave Profile

Soil profile from Oakwood Cemetery Grave



GLASSWARE & POTTERY GRAVE GOODS

- Grave goods are photographed in place and cleaned, cataloged and reinterred



Tygart Valley Glass

Melted Glass



SEA SHELL GRAVE GOODS



METAL DETECTION

Temporary Markers, Best if shaft is in situ



Horse Bit



Lamp Base



Harrington & Richardson
Top Break Revolver



Childs Casket Handle



MARKERS OF UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS

Partial Temporary Markers



Footstone or
Headstone with Initials



Footstone, Headstone
or Family Plot Marker



Limestone



Railroad Rail

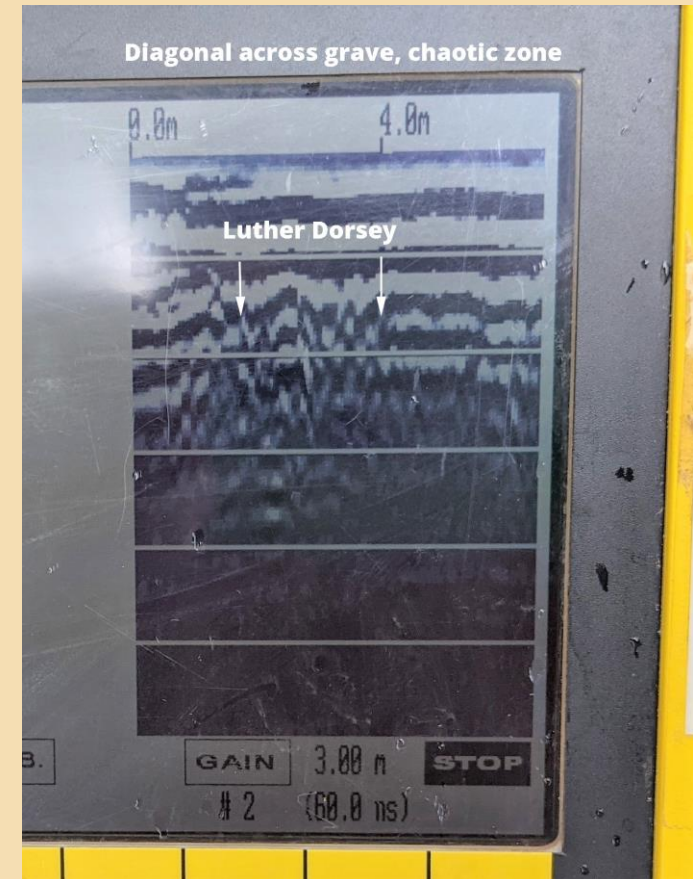
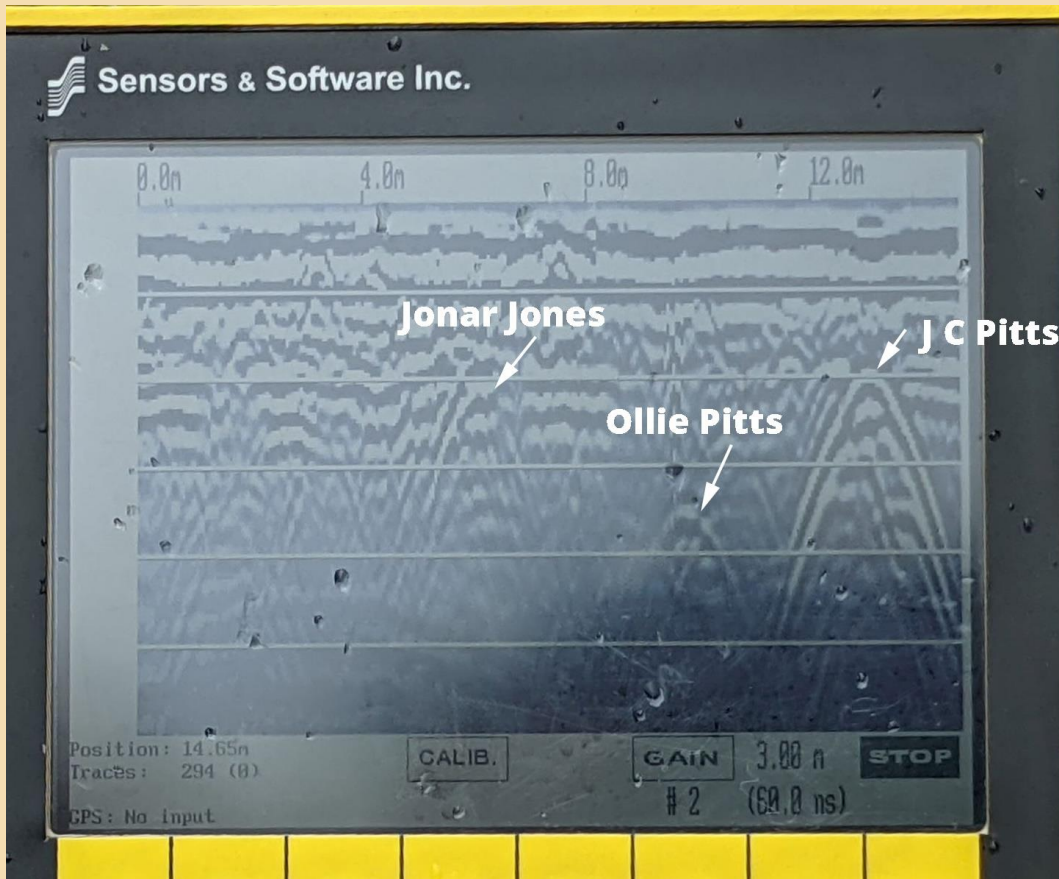


Markers without Inscription



GROUND PENETRATING RADAR

- The University of Houston Geophysical Department has been testing the value of GPR at the Conroe Community Cemetery
- Results have been very encouraging
 1. Strong hyperbolic reflectors at varying depths
 2. Chaotic zones due to disruption of the normal soil stratigraphy when the grave is dug and the soil is less compacted



PROMOTE THE PROJECT

PROMOTE THE PROJECT

Signage at Cemetery



Newspaper Articles



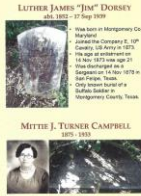
Speaking Engagements

CONROE COMMUNITY CEMETERY

The Forgotten Cemetery

Presented by
John Meredith

You are Invited to Attend
Montgomery County NAACP #6304
monthly meeting



Montgomery County Library
104 1-45 North
Conroe, TX 77304
March 12, 2020 @ 7pm

www.mcnaacp6304.org



Booth at Historical Events

Brochure

Sponsorship Levels

- \$2,000 Luther James Dorsey
 - Logo and company information at all events
 - Booster of all events for one year
 - Logo on all pages of website for one year
 - Logo on Facebook page for one year
- \$500 Mitche Campbell
 - Logo and company information at all events
 - Booster of all events for one year
 - Logo on all pages of website for one year
 - Logo on Facebook page for one year
- \$150 James Charles Pitts, Sr.
 - Logo on website for six months
 - Logo on Facebook for six months
- \$100 Handmade Sponsorship
 - Name listed on website sponsoring a historical site or event

Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project



This is a Cemetery...
A cemetery is a history of people - a personal record of humanity and a sanctuary of peace and quiet reflection.



SIGNS POSTED AT GRAVES

JACOB FRANCIS COZIER

8 SEP 1830 – 26 AUG 1903

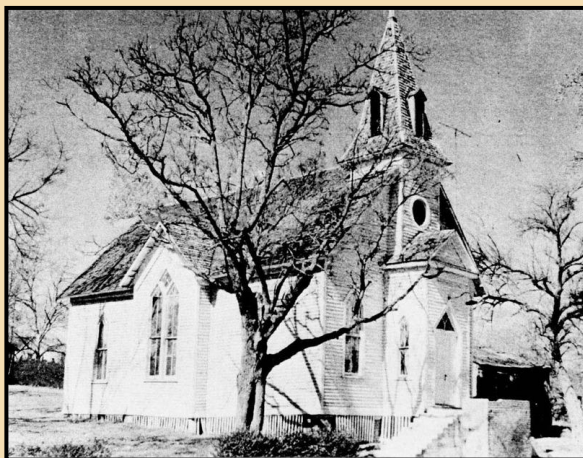
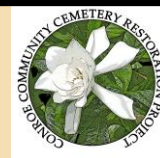
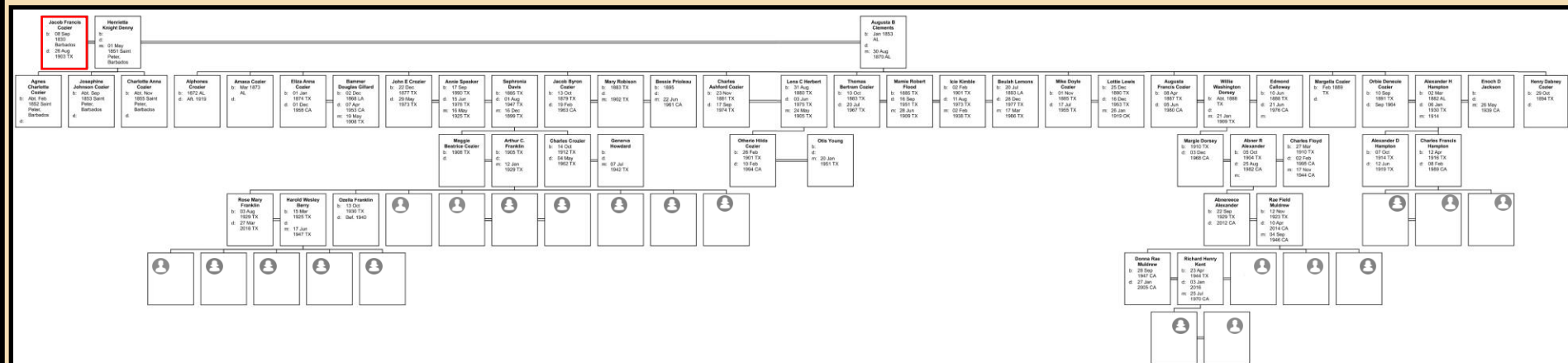


Photo from Samuel Walker
Houston Museum & Cultural
Center

- Jacob Cozier was born in the West Indies.
- He was a pastor and teacher at the Union Church, St. James Methodist School in Huntsville, Texas founded in 1867 by Joshua Houston, a former slave of Sam Houston.
- Jacob established the first Freedman's church outside of Galveston.



ELIZA EVANS

20 Nov 1870 – 28 Mar 1912



“only God’s salvation”

Inscription: 333 In Solo deo Salus 777 Sacred to the memory of Dtr Eliza Evans. Wild Rose Tabernacle 324, K & D of T I. O. O.12. O, Dear, we hold thee in loving remembrance while doeth with the angelic hosts rest.

K & D of T I.O.O.12 refers to the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, International Order of 12 founded by Moses Dickson in 1846 as an antislavery society committed to ending slavery.

Reorganized in 1872 as a fraternal organization which “meets the necessities and wants of the Colored people”





Dora Griffin

15 May 1856 – 9 October 1918 • G7NJ-V5K

[VIEW TREE](#) [VIEW RELATIONSHIP](#) [FOLLOW](#)

[ABOUT](#) [DETAILS](#) [SOURCES \(17\)](#) [COLLABORATE \(2\)](#) [MEMORIES \(7\)](#) [TIME LINE](#)

Sources (17)

Detail View [+ ADD SOURCE](#)

[OPTIONS](#)

Date	Title	Created
1870	Dora Griffin in household of Wade Hampton, "United States Census, 1870"	May 19, 2020 JaToMc
1887	Dorinda Or Doranda Smith, "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965"	May 31, 2020 JaToMc
1887	Dorinda Smith in entry for Charles Harvey, "Texas Marriages, 1837-1973"	November 6, 2014 FamilySearch
1890	Dora Smith in entry for Elijah Armstrong, "Texas Marriages, 1837-1973"	November 6, 2014 FamilySearch
1890	Dora Smith, "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965"	May 14, 2020 Cindy Kay Cheney
1900	Dora Armstrong, "United States Census, 1900"	May 14, 2020 Cindy Kay Cheney

This record has not been attached to all people found in the record. [LEARN MORE](#)

Notes

+ ADD NOTE

1870 Walker County Census

Dora Griffin is listed on page 14 of the 1870 census. Born in GA

Thomas Griffin is listed on page 21 of the 1870 census. Born in GA

A third Griffin, first name is hard to make out is Thornten on page 24 of the 1870 census.

Need more research to prove relationships.

LESS

Last Changed: 28 October 2020  Cindy Kay Cheney

Children

On the 1910 census, it says Dora had 10 children, 6 living. 10 children and 7 were living on the 1900 census. There are missing children for Dora.

Six children are listed. 3 different father's.

Last Changed: 28 October 2020  Cindy Kay Cheney



Dora Griffin

15 May 1856 – 9 October 1918 • G7NJ-V5K

VIEW TREE VIEW RELATIONSHIP FOLLOW

ABOUT DETAILS SOURCES (17) COLLABORATE (2) MEMORIES (7) TIME LINE

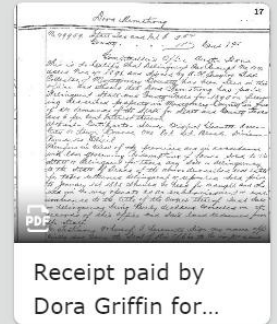
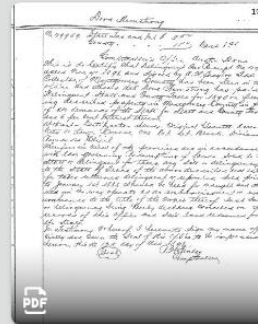
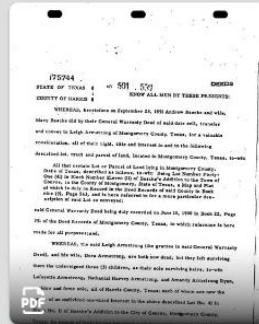
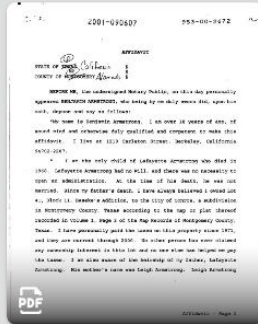
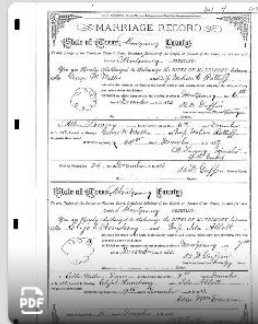
ADD MEMORIES

FILTER

Find Memories



Dora Griffin Armstrong



Receipt paid by Dora Griffin for...



Brief Life History



0 People Following • 9 Past Contributors

Dora Griffin Armstrong was born on May 15, 1863 in Georgia. According to census records her parents were born in Virginia. Her death certificate lists Tom Griffins as her father.

1870 - In the 1870 Federal Census, she is listed as being 17 years old, working as a "farm hand" and living with Wade and Lucinda Hampton in Huntsville, Walker County, Texas. Lucinda is listed as being born about 1841 in Georgia.

In the 1870 Federal Census in Huntsville, Walker County, Texas, is a listing for Thomas Griffin, born about 1850 in Georgia. He is buried in the same cemetery as Dora. He could be the brother of Dora. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryuicontent/view/48202390:60525>

1880 - Sometime in 1880, Dora has a relationship with Riley E. Hubbard GWZQ-CYM who lived in precinct 6 of Conroe, and they had two children together: Arthur, born in 1880 and Amanda, born in 1882. No marriage record has been found.

1882-1887 - Sometime during this period, Dora may have married someone with the last name of Smith, because this becomes her name for her marriage in 1887.

1887- On August 13, 1887, Dora (Dorinda Smith) marries Charles Harvey in the Montgomery Land District, Texas.

1888 - In 1888, Dora gives birth to Nathaniel Harvey.

1890 - On February 16, 1890, Dora (Still using surname of Smith) marries Elijah Armstrong in the Montgomery Land District, Texas.

1900 - Dora and Elijah were apparently divorced sometime before 1900 because in the 1900 Federal

 EDIT



**TEXAS DEATH CERTIFICATE PROJECT,
1890-1976, INDEX ENHANCEMENT**

Purpose and Introduction Video:

We are indexing new fields in the Texas death certificates: the deceased's race, the informant's name, the burial date, burial place, cemetery, funeral home, and funeral director's name. We will also be correcting the county where the death occurred if needed. Introduction Video:

<https://youtu.be/plgg13nGOzI>

How To Get Started:

Training Video and PDF Instructions -

<https://tinyurl.com/TexasDeathCert>

For any other questions or problems, please contact Jean Bavender at jean.bavender@FamilySearch.org or Bruce Carson at bruce.carson@FamilySearch.org or Vicki Fanning at vicki.fanning@FamilySearch.org

Thank You!

from NA FamilySearch Records - Texas

Conroe Community Cemetery

On the near east side of Conroe, Texas, is a small, African American cemetery that has been lost to human memory, but it has not been forgotten by nature. The Conroe Community Cemetery never had a name. It was simply known as the Conroe Cemetery, No-Name Cemetery, or the Community Cemetery among the older African Americans in the community. Burials there date back to the 1800s and include not only former slaves, but some of the most influential African Americans in local and Texas history.

First Names

Last Names

Place

Year

MORE OPTIONS

Conroe Community Cemetery



Project Description

- On the near east side of Conroe, Texas, is a small, African American cemetery that has been lost to human memory, but it has not been forgotten by nature. The Conroe Community Cemetery never had a name. It was simply known as the Conroe Cemetery, No-Name Cemetery, or the Community Cemetery among the older African Americans in the community. Burials there date back to the 1800s and include not only former slaves, but some of the most influential African Americans in local and Texas history.

- [Conroe Community Cemetery - Cemeteries, Monuments, and Memorials](#)
- [Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project](#)
- [Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project Facebook page](#)
- [Conroe Community Cemetery Find a Grave](#)
- [Community Trees](#)
- [Conroe Community Cemetery YouTube](#)





On the near east side of Conroe, Texas, is a small, African American cemetery that has been lost to human memory, but it has not been forgotten by nature. The Conroe Community Cemetery never had a name. It was simply known as the Conroe Cemetery, No-Name Cemetery, or the Community Cemetery among the older African Americans in the community. Burials there date back to the 1800s and include not only former slaves, but some of the most influential African Americans in local and Texas history.

Find someone in this site:

Here is a list of people from Family Tree that are connected to this place. Sign in or create an account to see if any are your relatives.

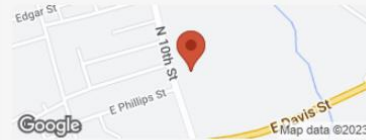
Search for a specific person

Filters

101 people found

- + Add person
- HD or DH - GJRL-329
- Len - GJRL-8CQ
- TM - GJRL-NL4
- Velma or Verna - GJR2-PPK
- Armstrong 1891-1892 (Age 1) • GFBC-KBC
- William Armstrong 1885-1923 (Age 38) • G7NV-QJM
- Armstrong 1891-1892 (Age 1) • GC36-VSH

Site Information and Links



- Find a nearby site
- Find a different site

Additional Links

Visit the Conroe Community Cemetery website

Conroe Community Cemetery

Conroe, Montgomery, Texas, United States



On the near east side of Conroe, Texas, is a small, African American cemetery that has been lost to human memory, but it has not been forgotten by nature.

The Conroe Community Cemetery never had a name. It was simply known as the Conroe Cemetery, No-Name Cemetery, or the Community Cemetery among the older

African Americans in the community. Burials there date back to the 1800s and include not only former slaves, but some of the most influential African Americans in local and Texas history.

Find someone in this site:

Here is a list of people from Family Tree that are connected to this place. Use the search bar or filter to see if any are your relatives.

Search for a specific person

Filters

01 people found

+ Add person

H D or D H
- • GJRL-329

Len
- • GJRL-8CQ

T M
- • GJRL-NL4

Velma or Verna
- • GJR2-PPK

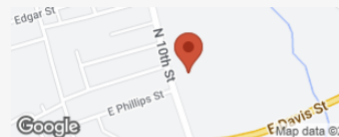
Armstrong
1891-1892 (Age 1) • GFBC-KBC

William Armstrong
1885-1923 (Age 38) • G7NV-QJM

Armstrong
1891-1892 (Age 1) • GC36-VSH

Agness Ashley
1852-1917 (Age 65) • GQLT-Y4H

Site Information and Links



Find a nearby site

Find a different site

Additional Links

Visit the Conroe Community Cemetery website

Filters

View

People related to me

Sort

ASCENDING

First Name

Last Name

RESET FILTERS

CONROE CEMETERY

Conroe Community Cemetery

Conroe, Montgomery, Texas, United States



On the near east side of Conroe, Texas, is a small, African American cemetery that has been lost to human memory, but it has not been forgotten by nature.

The Conroe Community Cemetery never had a name. It was simply known as the Conroe Cemetery, No-Name Cemetery, or the Community Cemetery among the older

African Americans in the community. Burials there date back to the 1800s and include not only former slaves, but some of the most influential African Americans in local and Texas history.

Find someone in this site:

Here is a list of people from Family Tree that are connected to this place. Use the search bar or filter to see if any are your relatives.

Feedback

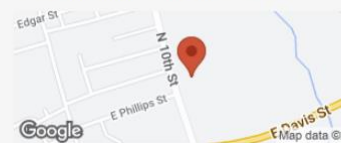
Filters (1)

Sorry, no relatives found.

SEARCH ANOTHER PLACE



Site Information and Links



Find a nearby site

Find a different site

Additional Links

Visit the Conroe Community Cemetery website

Filters (1)

View

People related to me

Sort

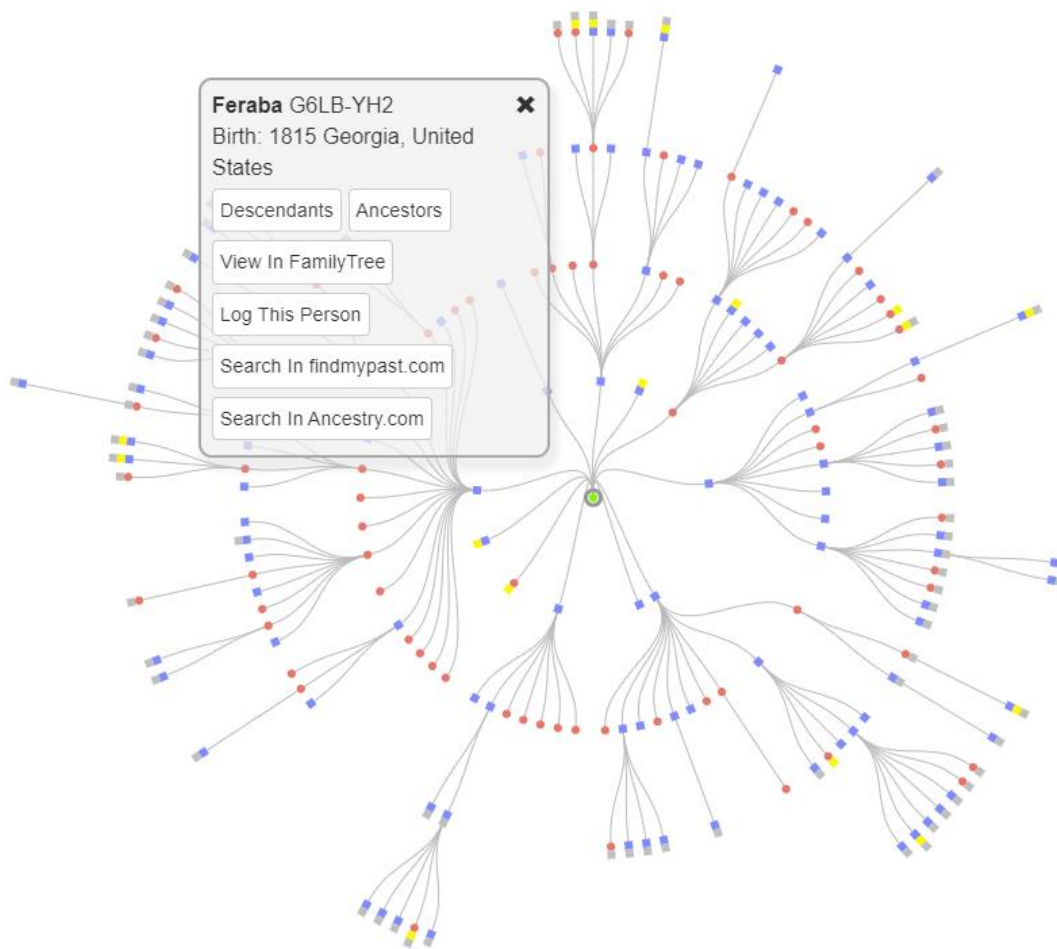
ASCENDING

Close Relationship

First Name

Last Name

RESET FILTERS



CONTACTS & MEETINGS

CCCRP on the Web: <https://www.cccrp.org>

CCCRP on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cccrp/>

CCCRP Email: cccrp.org@gmail.com

Address: CCCRP, P.O. Box 1893, Conroe, Texas 77305-1893

Meetings: The CCCRP normally meets **the 2nd Tuesday** of each month @ 6:00 pm at Montgomery County Memorial Library, 104 Interstate 45 N, Conroe, TX 77301.

Check the website for changes before coming, <https://www.cccrp.org>

The public is encouraged to attend, donate and become members of CCCRP.

OUR THANKS GO OUT TO



- **Officers of the CCCRП:** John Meredith Ed Pierce, Jean Smoorenburg, Tommy Cheney, Wendy Packer, Joyce Pierce
- **Director at Large:** Ann Meador, Cindy Cheney, Cindy Amburgey, Pam Ready
- **Montgomery Co. Historical Commission**, Larry Foerster, Chairman, <http://www.montgomerycountyhistoricalcommission.com/>
- **Arcs and Sparks, Inc.**, Richard and Cindy Amburgey <http://arcs-sparks.com/>
- **Heritage Sanitation** <http://www.heritagesanitation.com/>
- **2 A-T Services** <http://www.2atservices.com>
- **Jim Kuykendall Fine Art**, Jim Kuykendall <http://jimkuykendall.art.com/>
- Jody Czajkoski, City of Conroe City Mayor
- All those who have volunteered to help & have donated funds



THIS IS A CEMETERY...

A cemetery is a history of people – a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today.

A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering – always.

~Author Unknown

LUTHER JAMES "JIM" DORSEY

abt. 1858 – 17 Sep 1939



- Was born a freedman in Montgomery Co., Maryland
- Joined the Company E, 10th Cavalry, US Army in 1873.
- His age at enlistment on 14 Nov 1873 was age 21
- Was discharged as a Sergeant on 14 Nov 1878 in San Felipe, Texas.
- Only known burial of a Buffalo Soldier in Montgomery County, Texas.

JACOB F. COZIER

8 SEP 1830 – 26 AUG 1903



- Born in the West Indies
- Pastor and teacher at the Union Church, St. James Methodist School in Huntsville, Texas founded in 1867 by Joshua Houston, a former slave of Sam Houston
- Established the first Freedman's church outside of Galveston

MITTIE J. TURNER CAMPBELL

1875 - 1933



- Her maiden name was Washington.
- Founder and principal of the first African American public school in Conroe.
- When the first school building burned in 1919 the school was moved to the Dugan neighborhood, and it was called Mittie J. Campbell School.

JAMES CHARLES PITTS, SR.

14 Dec 1876 – 26 Sep 1966



- Early African American educator from Conroe
- He graduated from Prairie View State Normal College
- Opened the first black school in Jefferson, Texas. He retired in 1960 as principal after 54 years of teaching.
- By 1910 he owned his home and farm
- In 1942, the State of Texas recognized him as the leading educator of African American students. He would start each school day with a prayer, a song, and a reading from the Bible before continuing with the daily education.

DORA GRIFFIN ARMSTRONG

15 MAY 1863 – 9 OCT 1918

Inscription: Wife of Elijah Armstrong



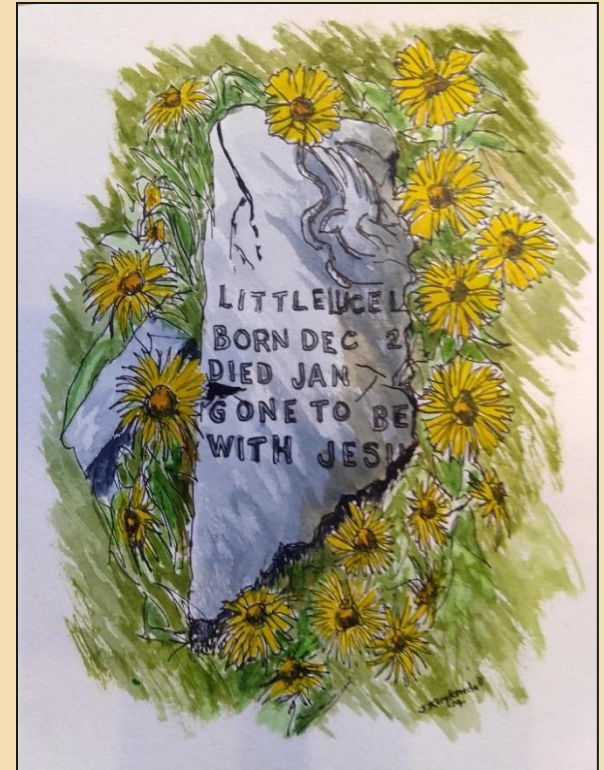
- The first grave Jon Edens saw in 2011.
- Dora Griffin Armstrong was born in Georgia. According to census records her parents were born in Virginia.
- Her Death Certificate shows she died on 9 Oct 1918 while living in Houston, Texas. She is listed as being widowed, her father was Tom Griffins and unknown mother.

LITTLE LUCEIL DRAKE

25 Dec 1900 – 7 Jan 1901



Inscription: Gone to rest with Jesus



Our special thanks to **Jim Kuykendall** of **Jim Kuykendall Fine Art** who donated his water color of Little Luceil used on our brochure.

<http://jimkuykendallart.com>