

Press Release: Instructions and Template

News from the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission (JCHLC)

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION RECEIVES GRANT FROM EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission is pleased to announce it has received a \$4,000 grant from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation - Helen Parker Willard Fund for Historic Cemeteries in Jefferson County. These funds will support the removal of standing dead ash trees in the *Kearneysville Methodist/Boyd Carter Memorial Cemetery*. Any remaining funds will be used to reset fallen headstones.

Background: In 1902, the land for the cemetery was deeded to a group of trustees by the Standard Lime & Stone Quarry president, Daniel Baker. The original deed for the cemetery states “the said lot of ground conveyed to the aforesaid Trustees [is] to be used as a burying ground for colored people and no other purpose (DB 98, 68).” Many early burials were those of individuals associated with the Stewart Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church (JF-0078-0058), established in 1889, which was located a short distance from the cemetery.

The land where the cemetery is located was originally part of the Dandridge plantation--which at one time had one of the largest slave holdings in what is now Jefferson County. According to local historians, the area was likely a burial ground for slaves before it was officially deeded as an African American cemetery. Over the years, burials occurred beyond the surveyed boundaries; a conveyance for land around the original cemetery was recorded in 1963 and unofficially named Boyd Carter Memorial (DB 264, 149). According to death certificates, burial records, remaining visible grave markers, there are nearly 200 marked and unmarked burials, including at least eight veteran graves (WW1, WW2, and Vietnam). The graves in the cemetery are marked with standard headstones, handmade headstones, fieldstones, metal markers, and plantings such as yucca, lilies, daffodils and rose bushes.

The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission (JCHLC) is a branch of the Jefferson County Government and operates under authority granted to landmarks commissions by the West Virginia Legislature. JCHLC’s primary mission is to preserve historic sites, structures, and rural landscapes within the unincorporated areas of Jefferson County and to educate the public about the county’s heritage.
<http://jeffersoncountyhlc.org/>

The Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation (EWVCF) was established in 1995 and celebrated its 25th year in 2020, managing more than 250 endowed funds with assets of over \$34 million. EWVCF is the leading steward of philanthropic giving, connecting donors with community needs to improve the quality of life for all people in Eastern West Virginia. Thanks to an outstanding board of directors, donors, investment advisors, and a professional staff, the Community Foundation will continue to grow. For more information, please contact EWVCF Executive Director Michael Whalton at mwhalton@ewvcf.org , 304-264-0353, or visit www.EWVCF.org.

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