



Fairview Cemetery of Gibsontown

Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Nomination Report



Established nearly 150 years ago, Fairview Cemetery of Gibsontown remains the largest black cemetery in Jefferson County, WV and is still an active burial ground today. Gibsontown was a small black community outside the city limits of Charles Town. In early 1875, the Fairview Cemetery Company was incorporated and purchased land in Gibsontown to be used as a burial ground. By 1917, the local paper reported that, “*nearly one-half of the colored people of the county use Fairview as a burial place for their dead.*”¹

Fairview contains burials of some of the most prominent and influential black citizens of Jefferson County from the 19th and 20th centuries. There are more than 100 military veterans buried in the cemetery, including more than a dozen Civil War and Spanish American War service members. Among those buried are formerly enslaved individuals and those born free, business owners, educators, officers and charter members of black fraternal orders, farmers, trustees of Storer College, leaders and preachers of numerous local churches, and more. There are various types of unique handmade headstones as well as decorations and mementos left on graves that enhance the cultural significance of the site. This sacred burial ground provides insight into the people, events, and patterns of life that are part of the fascinating and rich black history of Jefferson County.

Historical Background

On January 7, 1873, Charles Town’s newspaper, the *Spirit of Jefferson*, announced the need for “*a new burial ground for the colored people*” of Charles Town and vicinity; “*that they should have a decent and secure resting place for their dead is a question that admits of no debate but the plan by which such a burial place should be secured has not heretofore been definitively fixed upon.*”²

On May 10, 1873, the Virginia Press reported:

“It is generally known that a lot has been set aside for the burial of colored people in the eastern end of town. But the lot is now full of graves, and has been filled for several years. For some time past it has been impossible to dig a grave without cutting down upon some old grave; and it is believed by all who have examined the lot, that there is not room for a single additional interment within its bounds. When this state of things was made known to the Mayor and Council, authority was given for graves to be dug in the alley which runs by the Burial Ground, and which is not used for public purposes; but with the necessary provision that all remains interred therein must be removed whenever the authorities desire to open the public alley. This contingency may arise at any time in the future. Moreover, this alley is narrow, and its length (for this use) limited to the breadth of the small lot now occupied as a cemetery—so that it will be but a short time

¹ Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 13 Nov. 1917. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1917-11-13/ed-1/seq-2/>>

² Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 07 Jan. 1873. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1873-01-07/ed-1/seq-3/>>

*before it is filled. The purchase of an additional lot is, therefore, a necessity staring the community in the face.”*³

The burial ground mentioned is located on a property at the corner of S. Seminary Street and E. Avis Avenue, across from Edge Hill Cemetery in Charles Town. According to the 2005 historic marker on the site, Andrew Hunter and his wife, Elizabeth, sold the lot to the City of Charles Town “to be used as a potter’s field and burying place for coloured persons.”

In the early months of 1873, regular notices were published with updates regarding contributions made to secure land for the new burial ground. By February 1875, the *Fairview Cemetery Company* was officially incorporated. The record from the Jefferson County Corporation Book 1, page 5 states:

*“The undersigned agree to become a corporation under the name Fairview Cemetery Company, for the purpose of providing and establishing a burial place for the dead of the colored people of Charles Town, Jefferson County, West Virginia, and its vicinity...on the 9th day of February, 1875. Signed, John H. Talbot, Edward P. Talbot [Tolbert], Philip Jackson, George W. Jackson, Joseph Walker, Robert Ford, and Richard Jackson.”*⁴

Just nine days after incorporation, the Fairview Cemetery Company purchased two acres of land from Henry Bedinger Davenport in a deed dated February 18, 1875. Henry B. Davenport lived at “Altona,” the nearby ancestral home and farm he inherited from his father, Colonel Braxton Davenport. According to the obituary of cemetery trustee Robert Ford, he “was in antebellum days a slave of the late Col. Braxton Davenport.”⁵ Braxton Davenport was the county magistrate at the time of the John Brown trial and Henry B. Davenport was a lieutenant in the military company that helped repress the John Brown raid and later guarded over Brown when he went between the jail and courthouse.⁶ After emancipation, Robert Ford went on to become a hearse driver for the Sadler Brothers undertaking business for 40 years then for their successors, Strider and Ramey, until his death in 1905. His obituary in the Shepherdstown Register estimated that “about 3,000 bodies were conveyed by him to cemeteries in the hearse which on Tuesday conveyed his own remains to their final resting place.”⁷ According to the Spirit of Jefferson, all of his pallbearers were white and included his former enslaver’s grandson, Braxton Davenport Gibson. For years, Braxton Gibson’s mother, Francis Davenport Gibson and husband, John

³ Virginia Free Press. (Charlestown, Va. [W. Va.]), 10 May 1873. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026784/1873-05-10/ed-1/seq-3/>>

⁴ Jefferson County, West Virginia. Corporation Book 1:5.

⁵ Spirit of Jefferson. (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 27 June 1905. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1905-06-27/ed-1/seq-2/>>

⁶ Shepherdstown Register. (Shepherdstown, Va. [W. Va.]), 19 Sept. 1901. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026824/1901-09-19/ed-1/seq-3/>>

⁷ Shepherdstown Register. (Shepherdstown, Va. [W. Va.]), 29 June 1905. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026824/1905-06-29/ed-1/seq-3/>>

Thomas Gibson, owned a large piece of property adjacent to Fairview; it is the Gibson family for which Gibsontown was named.

Because the cemetery was established out of need, it is likely that the first burials occurred soon after the land was secured in early 1875. Changes in the landscape over time from erosion, invasive plants, and burrowing animals have caused some of the gravestones to topple and become buried by soil, especially in the oldest section which lies at the bottom of a hill. Without a burial map and many graves currently unmarked, for now the history must be pieced together through information on remaining visible stones, available death records, newspaper archives, and oral history.

The one visible stone with years predating the recorded establishment of the cemetery is a large obelisk for the children of Achilles and Ellen Dixon: Wilson (died in 1857), Urania (1864), and Marian Dixon Keys (1880). This obelisk could mark Wilson and Urania's reinternments or their names could have been added in their memory when the stone was erected after Marian's death. Their father, Achilles Dixon, was a successful blacksmith who was born free. In 1839, he purchased the freedom of his wife, Ellen, one daughter, and one son. In the deed of emancipation between Margaret Kearsley and Achilles Dixon, Urania Camilla is identified as the daughter whose freedom he purchased.⁸ The Dixons lived on the corner of Liberty and Samuel Street in Charles Town. In December of 1865, the first "colored" school was established in their home. When Ellen Dixon died in 1908, The Daily Telegram (Clarksburg, WV) wrote that the "*Freewill Baptist church was organized in her home. Her home was also the birthplace of government schools in the valley and especially Storer College.*" Her obituary also quoted Professor Nathan C. Brackett of Storer as saying, "*In the early days of the school at the close of the war she rendered great service to the teachers, her keen insight into human nature, her knowledge of people of both races were always at the service of the president and teachers.*"⁹

Although not the first burial, the earliest date on a visible marked stone is for Lewis Cooke who died July 14, 1879. His obituary reads: "*Lewis Cooke, son of Henry Cooke, the colored express man, of Charlestown, died on Sunday last. Lewis was well known, and one of the most popular barbers we ever had. He was a good boy and his death will be regretted by white and colored.*"¹⁰ His father, Henry Cooke, died seven years after his son; he was a sexton for the Presbyterian Church for thirty years as well as the mail carrier and express messenger for the B&O Railroad.¹¹ Two years after his death, local stone carvers, Diehl & Bros., erected a headstone at his grave

⁸ Jefferson County Clerk's Office. Deed Book 23: 407. 19 Aug 1839. Charles Town, Jefferson County, WV.

⁹ The daily telegram. (Clarksburg, W. Va.), 01 Feb. 1908, p.2, col. 4. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85059715/1908-02-01/ed-1/seq-2/>>

¹⁰ Spirit of Jefferson. (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 15 July 1879. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1879-07-15/ed-1/seq-3/>>

¹¹ Virginia Free Press. (Charlestown, Va. [W. Va.]), 25 Feb. 1886. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026784/1886-02-25/ed-1/seq-2/>>

that was purchased through community donations from “those who appreciated the man whose memory they revere.”¹²

Every veteran interred at Fairview does not have a headstone recording their service, however, military records and visible headstones have helped to identify more than 100 military veterans buried there. Fairview Cemetery has government-issued military headstones distributed across the site, representing the Civil War, Spanish American War, WW1, WW2, Korea, and Vietnam. Some of the veterans buried at Fairview died in service including Eugene Luckett, who died in Germany while serving in the army during WW2, as well as James E. Thornton, George Carr, and Matthew Washby, all of whom died at camp from influenza shortly after they enlisted in the army during WW1. Shortly after the Spanish American War concluded, the newspaper began reporting on memorial services at Fairview, which implies that there were likely interments of those who died in service during the earlier wars.

Over the years, many local fraternal organizations and historically black churches have been involved in recognizing military service of those interred at Fairview. In 1903, *The Spirit* described a procession from the Fishermen’s Hall to Fairview. Charles Town’s Fishermen’s Hall, is located about 1.7 miles from Fairview and was established by the Grand United Order of the Galilean Fishermen in 1885. Cemetery charter member Edward P. Tolbert was also the president of the Galilean Fishermen during the year of the inception. The black benevolent society, composed of philanthropic men and women, was focused on education and self-betterment and providing for the sick, assisting widows, and paying for funerals. Since its construction, Fisherman’s Hall has served as a community meeting place for a variety of groups and benevolent societies; organizations like the NAACP of Jefferson County still use this building today. At that 1903 memorial service, B.F. Nelson was president, L.L. Page master of ceremonies, and Philip Jackson, secretary. “*At the cemetery, prayer was offered by Rev. Washington Murray, addresses made by Rev. J.H. Burrill, Rev. C.R. Wills, and Charles Herbert, and essays read by Misses M.M. Simms and Elizabeth Moore.*”¹³ A later example of a Fairview memorial service was in June 1946—the Green Copeland Post No. 63 began the Memorial Day services by tossing a wreath in the Shenandoah for all the soldiers lost at sea then proceeded to Fairview to lay wreaths on the graves.¹⁴

As is typical with cemeteries lacking perpetual care, there have been times through the years when Fairview has become overgrown. On June 8, 1914, a community meeting was held at Wainwright Baptist Church to organize a clean-up effort. Their work day was described by the cemetery committee in the *Spirit of Jefferson*:

¹² Spirit of Jefferson. (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 15 May 1888. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1888-05-15/ed-1/seq-3/>>

¹³ Spirit of Jefferson. (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 09 June 1903. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1903-06-09/ed-1/seq-3/>>

¹⁴ Spirit of Jefferson (Charles Town, WV), 1946, June 5. Small Town Papers, Inc. <http://spj.stparchive.com/Archive/SPJ/SPJ06051946P02.php>

Immediately following a devotional service conducted by Reverend Craven, “*scythes, saws, axes, and grubbing hoes were to be seen in use, and by eight o’clock, be it said to their honor, sixty-nine of the most sturdy, respectable and industrious men of this community were upon the grounds and at work. Among them were to be seen, our ministers and teachers, as well as our good Dr. C. D. Wainwright, who showed he can wield the ax in good cause as well as write prescriptions successfully.*”¹⁵

Dr. Chester Wainwright, was the first practicing physician in Charles Town and for a time was the only black doctor in Jefferson County. His father, Reverend Chester C. Wainwright, was a trustee of Storer College and for 27 years the pastor of Charles Town’s Freewill Baptist Church, later renamed in his honor. This type of community outreach for clean-up and fundraising can be found throughout newspaper archives over the next century to the present day—many of the efforts led by local historically black churches and organizations like the Green-Copeland American Legion Post 63 and the Star Lodge No. 1, A.F. & A.M. Freemasons—the first African American Prince Hall Lodge established in West Virginia.

Location and Property Description

Fairview Cemetery is located two miles from the city center of Charles Town, WV. From Gibsontown Road via Augustine Avenue, visitors enter the cemetery from the southeast—this section is the original land purchased by the cemetery trustees thus containing the oldest graves. Seen in the distance to the northwest are lands once owned by the extended family of George Washington; there are numerous individuals interred in the cemetery who were enslaved on those lands.

The cemetery has farm fields to the northwest and southwest, although there are plans for expansion of the Huntfield Development across most of the open land. Fairview shares its northeast border with Page Jackson Elementary School, built after school segregation was deemed unlawful and named after the first black high school in Jefferson County—Page Jackson High School of Charles Town, now the home of the Jefferson County Board of Education. The name Page-Jackson honors two prominent black educators interred at Fairview, Philip Jackson and Littleton Lorton Page. Philip Jackson spent 50 years of his career in education at Eagle Avenue in Charles Town as a teacher and enthralls principal of the school; he was also involved in various organizations and served on the cemetery board. Littleton L. Page was born enslaved. He fought in the Civil War and after returning from war a free man, spent his life dedicated to education. Both Jackson, Page, and many of their immediate family members are buried at Fairview.

Over the years, the cemetery was improved, and additional land acquired. On November 13, 1917, the *Spirit of Jefferson* newspaper reported that Fairview Cemetery was to be enlarged and

¹⁵ Spirit of Jefferson. (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 30 June 1914. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1914-06-30/ed-1/seq-2/>>

improved— “*Negotiations have been concluded with Mr. Thornton Perry who owns land adjacent by which land will be obtained to enlarge the cemetery, making it about twice its present size.*”¹⁶

In a deed dated October 28, 1918, the trustees of the cemetery purchased an additional strip of land from Marshall and Lena Burns that ran along the dirt road to the cemetery (DB 116, 482). However, in August of 1919, the trustees acquired a larger piece of adjacent land and sold the Burns parcel. At that time, the *Spirit of Jefferson* reported: “*Thomas W. Moore has sold an acre of land at Gibsontown to John J. Dixon, trustee for the Fairview Cemetery, the purpose in buying it being to enlarge the cemetery. A small tract of less than an acre was bought last fall from Marshall Burns to add to the cemetery. The latter tract has been resold, as the Moore land was found to be more available.*”¹⁷ John J. Dixon was another son of Achilles and Ellen Dixon. According to the deed dated August 27, 1919, this land sale added about an acre to the cemetery (DB 117, 481). A deed dated August 30, 1919, shows the land sale from the cemetery trustees back to Marshall Burns (DB 117, 479). In 1929, Marshall Burns, now widowed, once again deeded less than an acre to the Trustees of Fairview Cemetery (DB 132, 313).

An undated tax card for Fairview identifies the property as Ventosa Cemetery of Gibsontown and states that it is 3.5 acres. Before the village was known as Gibsontown, the lots were historically known as Ventosa. A plat map from 1976 (PB 4, 59) shows the properties along Gibsontown Road up to the cemetery and uses both Gibsontown and Ventosa to describe the properties. On the plat, the surveyor acknowledges that some of the deed descriptions on record were too vague to reconstruct. Based on the number of land transactions altering the size of the cemetery, incomplete land records, and the potential for burials beyond surveyed boundaries, a more in-depth survey is necessary to determine the true scale of the cemetery and location of all burials.

Nomination Criteria

The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission nominates Fairview Cemetery of Gibsontown under Criterion A for inclusion on the list of registered county landmarks. Criterion A states that a site may be nominated if, in the opinion of the JCHLC, it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Nomination Action

Landmarks Commissioner, Addison Reese, presented the nomination to the JCHLC at their general meeting; the board voted unanimously to add Fairview Cemetery of Gibsontown, under Criteria A, to the rolls of registered Jefferson County Historic Landmarks on December 7, 2022.

¹⁶ Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 13 Nov. 1917. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1917-11-13/ed-1/seq-2/>>

¹⁷ Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 19 Aug. 1919. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1919-08-19/ed-1/seq-3/>>

Background Documentation and References:



Looking Northeast at Fairview Cemetery



Aerial Photograph of Fairview Cemetery and Page Jackson Elementary School



Aerial Imagery and USGS 1:24,000 Topo of Fairview Cemetery

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The undersigned agree to become a corporation by the name of Fairview Cemetery Company, for the purpose of providing and establishing a burial place for the dead of the colored people of Charleston, Jefferson County, West Virginia, and its vicinity, and for that purpose derive authority to purchase, hold, lease, sell and convey real property to the value of three thousand Dollars, and personal property to the value of one thousand Dollars. Given under our hands this 9th day of February, 1875.

Witness
 John H. Talbot
 Edward P. Talbot
 Philip Jackson

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George M. Jackson
 Joseph Walker
 Robert Ford
 Richard Jackson

February 9, 1875. Fairview Cemetery Company, Corporation Book 1: 5. Jefferson Co., WV, County Clerk's Office.



Photograph of Dollie Thompson at her Gibsontown homestead circa 1920. The funeral for her husband, Jasper Thompson, and countless others were held at the Thompson home (Photo and Oral History from descendent, Monique Crippen-Hopkins)

One of the original houses still standing was owned by Jasper and Dollie Irving Thompson. During the Civil War, Jasper Thompson enlisted in the army and quickly reached the rank of 1st sergeant of Co. F, 23rd Reg. of the U.S. Colored Troops. Returning from the war, he worked as a farmer and was involved in many local organizations. In hand-written family records, his daughter described his occupation as being a farmer and “leader of organizations of his race.” At the time of Jasper’s sudden death in 1906, he was survived by his wife and 9 children, several children having preceded him in death. According to his obituary, “His funeral took place on Sunday afternoon, at his late residence, Rev. C.R. Willis conducting the service, and was attended by the order of True Reformers and a large body of colored people.”¹⁸ Dollie Thompson remained at the family homestead until her death in 1933.

Some other families once living in Gibsontown were Bradford, Brookins, Clay, Cross, Drummonds, Ford, Herbert, Lawson, Roman, Short[s], Smith, Thompson, Toliver, and Walker. Many members of these families and their descendants are interred at Fairview.

¹⁸ Spirit of Jefferson. (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 11 Sept. 1906. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1906-09-11/ed-1/seq-3/>>

Select Obituaries and Headstone Photos

Examples of military headstones:



Examples of Handcrafted Gravestones:





Oldest date on visible marked stone - Wilson Dixon, 1857 & Urania Dixon, 1864



Lewis Cooke, son of Henry Cooke, the colored express man, of Charlestown, died on Sunday last. Lewis was well known, and one of the most popular barbers we ever had. He was a good boy, and his death will be regretted by white and colored.

Lewis Cooke, 1879

Spirit of Jefferson. (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 15 July 1879. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1879-07-15/ed-1/seq-1/>>



The body of Mrs. Marian E. Keyes—wife of Manager H. E. Keyes, of the “Centennial Jubilee Singers,” colored, and daughter of Achilles Dixon, of this place—whose death we mentioned in our last, was brought to Charlestown and interred on Wednesday last, with the most imposing funeral cortege of a colored person which we have ever witnessed.

Marian Dixon Keyes, 1880

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 27 April 1880. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1880-04-27/ed-1/seq-3/>>



Died at his home in Charlestown, on the evening of Feb. 22d, Henry Cook, colored, more familiarly known on our streets as "Uncle Henry."—Uncle Henry was confined to his room for several weeks with dropsy of the chest, and is supposed to be between seventy and seventy-five years of age. The deceased held for the last ten or more years the responsible trust of Mail Carrier and Express Messenger for the B. & O. R. R. Company, and by his faithfulness, politeness and kindness, won the confidence and esteem of the whole community. His word was as good as his bond, and although he could not read he seldom miscarried any of the innumerable packages entrusted to his care.—He was truly the children's friend, and it was his great delight to gather the little ones around him and give them the pleasure of a ride wherever his business called him, and care for them with all the tenderness of his kind nature. His funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. A. C. Hopkins, in the Presbyterian church—in which church he held the position of sexton for thirty years. Dr. Hopkins spoke in kindly terms of the deceased, of his fidelity and politeness as sexton and his popularity with all classes of people, won for himself by his upright character and habitual kindness of heart. The large attendance at his funeral, of both white and colored, and the tearful interest manifested bore evidence to the fact that Uncle Henry left many friends. He died with the blessed assurance of a happy life beyond this vale of tears.

Henry Cook, 1886

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 02 March 1886. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1886-03-02/ed-1/seq-3/>>

"Aunt" Harriet Myers, a faithful colored lady who presided over the culinary department of our home for eleven years, died on Monday evening last. Several months ago, suddenly, she gave way mentally and physically. For integrity and fidelity and industry and genuine courtesy she was the peer of the best we have known. She was a member of the M. E. Church for forty-five years and of the benevolent order of "Rising Sons and Daughters" for twenty-three years. The funeral services took place in Zion M. E. Church on Tuesday and were very numerous attended. The "Rising Sons and Daughters" were there in full force and arrayed in their pretty and unique regalia.— The sermon by the pastor, Rev. F. F. Wheeler, was appropriate and eloquent, and his reading of the hymns was exceedingly impressive. Rev. Mr. Wainright, of the Baptist Church, assisted in the services.— The good old lady was laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery in a handsome casket that was banked in beautiful flowers.

Harriet Myers, 1890

Virginia free press. (Charlestown, Va. [W. Va.]), 18 June 1890. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026784/1890-06-18/ed-1/seq-3/>>

Edward P. Tolbert, a worthy and well known colored citizen of Charles Town, died last night. The deceased was much respected by all classes, and was a member in good standing and officer of the Free Baptist church. His funeral will take place at 10 A. M. to-morrow. Services in the Free Baptist church.

Edward P. Tolbert, *An original trustee of Fairview*

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 06 Oct. 1891. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1891-10-06/ed-1/seq-3/>>

“Uncle” Billy Hill, the o’dest of the colored men of of this locality. died on Friday last—aged 91 years. He was, before the war, a well-known and highly-appreciated servant of the Washington families of this county. His funeral was preached on Saturday by Rev. Mr. Wainright, of one of the the colored Baptist Churches of this town. We are sure the Charles Town colony in New York City will hear with regret of the demise of this clever old colored man. Uncle Billy never forgot the lessons in courtesy learned in the days of his servitude and was respected by all—old and young, rich and poor.—*Free Press*.

William Hill, 1893

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 20 June 1893. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1893-06-20/ed-1/seq-3/>>

Died—at “Harmony,” the residence of her husband, Nov. 5th, 1893, after a lingering illness of twenty-two months. Mrs. NANCY HERBERT, beloved wife of Mr. Philip Herbert, aged 57 years, 2 months and 29 days. She had been for twenty-six years a devout member of the M. E. Church of this place. She was a loving wife and devoted mother, and loved by all who knew her. She leaves a loving husband and two devoted children to mourn her loss, besides a host of relatives and friends. The funeral services were held at the M. E. Church in this place on Monday, Nov. 6, at 2 P. M., Rev. T. O. Carroll, pastor in charge, officiating, assisted by Rev. C. C. Wainwright of the F. B. Church. After the funeral services her remains were conveyed to Fair View Cemetery for interment. *

Nancy McCord Herbert, 1893

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 14 Nov. 1893. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1893-11-14/ed-1/seq-3/>>

Death of a Colored Minister.

Rev. Chester C. Wainwright, colored, pastor of St. Mark's Freewill Baptist Church, of this place, died Saturday afternoon, at the home of Rev. John C. Newman in Hagerstown, where he was visiting. The deceased had been in poor health for some time past, suffering from a complication of diseases, including diabetes, and was taken suddenly worse whilst on this trip away from home. He was aged about 55 years and was one of the best known ministers of the Freewill Baptist church, was treasurer of the Freewill Baptist Association, a member of the Conococheague Camp Meeting Association, a trustee of Storer College, Harpers Ferry, and chairman of the Ministerial Board of the Freewill Baptist church. Surviving are his wife and five children. Rev. Wainwright had served as pastor here for twenty-eight years, was a man of wonderful influence among the people of his race, and had built up what was probably the strongest colored church in this section. His remains were brought to Charles Town Sunday morning, and his funeral took place yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The occasion drew together an immense assemblage from this and all surrounding counties. Rev. N. C. Brackett, of Harpers Ferry, and a number of ministers from various points took part in the funeral services. The Sunday School was present in a body, the girls dressed in white with black sashes, and the remains were escorted to the Colored Cemetery by the order of True Reformers.



Reverend Chester C. Wainwright, 1902

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 26 Aug. 1902. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1902-08-26/ed-1/seq-2/>>

“Uncle” Robert Ford, one of our best known and most highly respected colored citizens, died about 10 o'clock on Sunday night last, in the 86th year of his age, after an illness of but a few hours. The deceased was in ante bellum days a slave of the late Col. Braxton Davenport, and was always esteemed a worthy and reliable man. For a long series of years he was hearse driver for the Sadler brothers—first Geo. W. and later J. N. & L. L.—and for the last five years has been with their successors in business, Messrs. Strider & Ramey, by whom he has always been held in high esteem.—His last hours were in clear view that his end was near, and with full confidence of a bright immortality beyond the grave. Funeral services will be held in Mt. Zion M. E. Church, (Rev. Washington Murray pastor.) at 2:30 p. m. today. The pallbearers will be white persons, as follows: N. S. J. Strider, D.W. Ramey, B. D. Gibson, S. H. Landis, Chas. L. Crane and Charles Rissler.

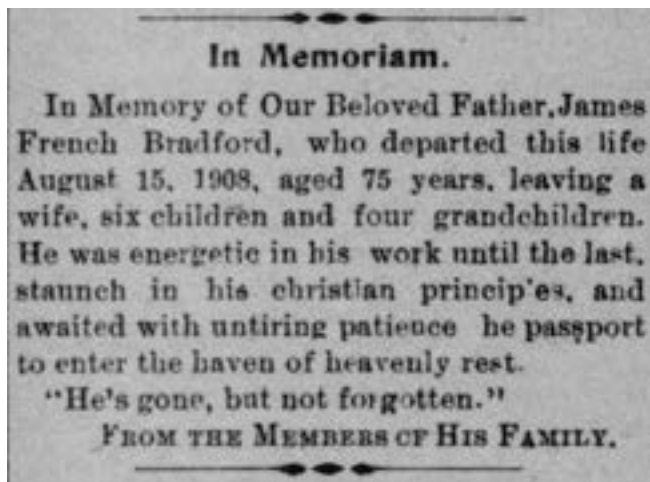
Robert Ford, 1905, *An original trustee of Fairview Cemetery*

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 27 June 1905. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1905-06-27/ed-1/seq-2/>>

Benjamin F. Nelson, a well-known and worthy colored man of this place, died December 24, at an advanced age. Funeral services were held Wednesday following in the Wainwright Baptist church, Revs. Murray and Craven officiating, and were attended by members of several orders of which he had been a member. Col. R. P. Chew, in whose service the deceased had been employed for the last thirty years, was present at the funeral, and on request made a few remarks attesting his faithfulness and general good character.

Benjamin F. Nelson, 1907

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 08 Jan. 1907. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1907-01-08/ed-1/seq-3/>>



James Bradford, 1908

Spirit of Jefferson. (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 25 Aug. 1908. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.*
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1908-08-25/ed-1/seq-3/>

James Thomas, the well-known restaurant keeper of this place, died at 2 a m Friday, after a protracted illness, aged 54 years. The deceased was one of the best known colored citizens of Charles Town, and had many white friends, who with his colored ones, will sincerely mourn his demise. During his last illness he announced his full preparation for death, and expressed the hope that all his friends, especially the white ones who had extended so many kindnesses to him, should meet him on the other shore. His funeral on Sunday afternoon was one of the most largely attended colored funerals ever seen in Charles Town. Services were held in Mt Zion M E Church, and were attended by a number of white persons. The sermon was preached by Rev Washington Murray, of Washington City, and the services were participated in by Rev J E Dotson, Rev Wm Craven and Richard Jackson. The True Reformers, of which order he was a prominent member, turned out in large numbers and escorted his body to the grave.



James A. Thomas, 1909

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 14 Sept. 1909. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.* <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1909-09-14/ed-1/seq-3/>



L. L. Page, one of most highly respected colored citizens, died at his home in this place this morning, aged about 60 years. He had been a teacher in the public school for 39 years, and although in failing health for some time, stuck to his post until the close of the last school term.

Littleton Lorton Page, 1914

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 30 June 1914. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1914-06-30/ed-1/seq-5/>>

Death of Elizabeth Moore.
Died at the Charles Town Hospital on April 30th, Elizabeth Moore. "Well done good and faithful servant, enter then into the joy of the Lord" Elizabeth Moore in early life went into domestic service as a nurse and in this capacity won the respect of her employers and the affection of the children she nursed. Later she attended Storer College where she graduated and afterwards taught in the colored school in Charles Town for several years. In every position she held she was faithful to her duty and stood for the betterment of her race. When the Civic League was organized she was as much interested in the work and was appointed secretary of the colored branch. Her death is a loss to her race for she set them an example of good morals and right living.

Elizabeth Moore, 1915

Virginia free press. (Charlestown, Va. [W. Va.]), 06 May 1915. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026784/1915-05-06/ed-1/seq-3/>>

Richard Jackson, a well known and highly respected colored man of this place, died last Friday at the advanced age of 79 years. He had been a resident of the vicinity of Charles Town all his life, and was a slave in ante bellion days. He had been a member of the church for 65 years. He was buried in the colored cemetery Sunday afternoon.



Richard Jackson, 1915, *An original trustee of Fairview Cemetery*

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 30 Nov. 1915. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.*
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1915-11-30/ed-1/seq-5/>>

A GOOD COLORED MAN GONE.

George H. Washington, one of the oldest and most respected colored men of Charles Town, died at his home Tuesday afternoon, November 25th, after an illness of about a year. George was born on February 22, 1847. He had a great many friends among the old and young, boys and girls, and was affectionately called "Uncle" George. His life was one of industry, honesty and exemplary habits, and no one stood higher in the confidence and esteem of the community where he had lived from boyhood. For over 43 years he lived in the family of the late Dr. G. F. Mason, and after their death with their son-in-law and daughter, Col. and Mrs. B. D. Gibson, as a faithful, unselfish and untiring friend and servant of the family. Their interest was always his first thought, and the old home was his home. To his employers his death is a personal sorrow, and they attest his devotion and faithfulness to all trusts. Raised in the Washington and Herbert families he early acquired the politeness and good manners for which he was noted. He was a member of Star Lodge No. 1, A. F. & A. M., in which he had filled all the station offices, and the Lodge gave him a Masonic funeral. His church was the Methodist Episcopal, where his funeral services were held on Friday afternoon. The interment was in Fairview cemetery. He is survived by a widow, two sons and three daughters.



George Washington, 1919

Spirit of Jefferson. (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 1, 02 Dec. 1919. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1919-12-02/ed-1/seq-5/>>

Mrs. Lottie Alice Wheeler, wife of Rev. Joseph Wheeler, died at Petersburg, Va., Tuesday morning, April 27th aged 44 years. She was the daughter of the late Edward and Helen Tolbert. Mrs. Wheeler spent her early life in Charles Town, making her home with her aunt, Mrs. Charlotte Arnett, until her marriage. She had been a faithful member of the M. E. Church since girlhood, and gave the best years of her life to its cause. She is survived by her husband, one daughter, three sisters and four brothers. The funeral was held in the M. E. Church, Charles Town, on Friday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Johnson, of Winchester, Va., assisted by Rev. E. W. Johnson, of Charles Town, after which her body was laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery.



Lottie Tolbert Wheeler, 1926

Spirit of Jefferson. [volume] (Charles Town, Va. [W. Va.]), 05 May 1926. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026788/1926-05-05/ed-1/seq-8/>>

VETERAN TEACHER DEAD.

Philip Jackson, principal of the Eagle Avenue colored graded school for many years, died suddenly at his home on Academy street, about 10 o'clock Saturday night. At intervals for several months, he had several slight attacks of heart trouble, but not until Saturday morning did he complain of being ill.

While seated at his home reading Saturday night he was suddenly stricken, and passed away before a physician could reach him.

His preparation for the teaching profession was obtained at Storer College, Harpers Ferry, where he graduated in June, 1886. His work as a teacher extended over a period of 51 years. The first year after graduating he taught in Frederick, Md., the second year in Rockingham county, Va. He was then appointed to a position in the Charles Town colored school where he labored for 49 years, several years of that time as principal.

He was 68 years of age. The survivors are his widow, who was his second wife, one daughter, and two sons, Philip, Jr., and Charles, at home, and three sisters.

The Rev. Pike, the rector, conducted the funeral services at St. Philip's Episcopal Church at 3:00 o'clock Monday afternoon. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery, near the Berryville pike, south of town.



Philip Jackson, 1937

Farmer's Advocate (Charles Town, WV), 1937 February 12. Page 1, column 7. Smalltown Papers, Inc. <http://fav.stparchive.com/Archive/FAV/FAV02121937P01.php>

DR. WAINWRIGHT DEAD

Relatives in Charles Town were notified Tuesday night of the sudden death of Dr. Chester Wainwright, for some years a colored physician, practicing in Charles Town. For the past two years he has been employed in a laboratory, connected with a hospital in Philadelphia. Death was caused by a cerebral hemorrhage. His widow, living in Charles Town, survives. Deceased was about 58 years of age.

Besides his widow, he leaves three sisters, Sarah Wainwright of Charles Town, Melinda Wainwright of Washington, and Mrs. Abbey Blue of Philadelphia.

The Rev. John Newman will conduct funeral services on Saturday afternoon, January 1, in Wainwright Baptist Church at 2:30 o'clock, with interment in Fairview Cemetery.



Dr. Chester Wainwright, 1943

Farmer's Advocate (Charles Town, WV), 1943 December 31. Page 1, column 2. Smalltown Papers, Inc. <http://fav.stparchive.com/Archive/FAV/FAV12311943P01.php>

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