

Marker placed by the Arlington Preservation Foundation (APF) and the Arlington Historical Society (AHS) on May 17, 2009

As noted elsewhere, this small cemetery, originally outside the city limits, has had several unofficial names including Millbranch Cemetery and Johnson Plantation Cemetery. The latter name comes from the small family burial area belonging to the family of Col. Middleton Tate Johnson. This property originally belonged to the Johnson family but only the small plot outlined with markers was used as a family burial ground. There may be slaves from his 'plantation', but no records. There could be descendants of slaves from other 'plantation' owners in the area; namely Ish, Ditto, Brinson, Rose, Givens, all names found listed on census records beginning in 1872 and living in 'The Hill', Arlington's only historically black neighborhood.

The property left the Johnson family over time and has had other owners through the years. From the 1920's – 1950's some of those owners did allow, for a fee, black Arlington residents to be buried here. In the early 1950's two other cemeteries, Cedar Hill (1955) and Skyview (1953), in what was then rural area around Arlington, opened to African American citizens. In recent times this site ended up on the Tarrant County Court House Steps to be auctioned off for back taxes. Former Arlington city councilman and AHS Board member Doland Manor, with some legal help arranged for the title to be placed under the umbrella of the AHS.

“Often these once-sacred grounds are overgrown and forgotten, the victims of time, theft and vandalism, only to be remembered at the last minute as developers begin to dig. Other times, even those that are known represent enticing, valuable raw land for developers and city planners who are caught between the need for growth and a sensitivity to the past.”
Fort Worth Star Telegram

This indeed did happen here. Not only was it neglected, nor properly recognized as a cemetery, in the 1970's the Historical Society and others, with good intent, in an effort to save two historic log cabins important to Arlington's history moved them to this site, perhaps covering some of the older, by then unmarked graves. A fence was erected and a lock placed on the gate. When Eulysee Pointer came to visit the graves of his wife and mother and found he could not gain access, the problem was brought to the attention of the Historical Society. He was given a key but the larger problem of buildings in a cemetery begged attention.

After much time and effort a new location for the buildings was found on Front Street in what is now Knap Heritage Park and the buildings were moved in 2006/07. The Arlington Historical Society along with the Arlington Preservation Foundation, in an effort to give the Cemetery proper respect as the first African American Cemetery in Arlington, worked tirelessly to have it designated a local historical site. This designation was finally made in May of 2009 and this marker was erected giving due respect to those named and unnamed who are buried here. In the original placement it was under a beautiful oak tree which later fell due to storm damage.

At the time this marker was placed the following names were read aloud and a bell was tolled for each name. The list was compiled from tombstone surveys, personal remembrances and death records.

Emizy Akes Sr. Fredrick Akes	Sam Grant, Jr.	Joe Pervis Ross Pervis
Jim Black Laure Black Jimmie Lee Brinson Willie Brinson Ranch Brooks Emilie Butler – 1928	Pearl Harris Etta Rose Henry Mr. Hickey Mrs. Hickey Bessie Lee Hickey Bessie Hicks Fredrick Lee Hicks – 1953 Auther Hunt Robert Hyams – 1948	Allen Pointer, Sr. Clyde Pointer –1946 Trular Pointer –1928 Viola Pointer Willie B. Pointer
Ster Campbell – 1916 Georgia Carter – 1926 Ira Carter Francis Charles – 1946 Alex Childs, Sr. 1950 Amie Childs Oscar Childs Georgie Christian -1921 Eliza A. Coleman Fannie Coleman Ollie Coleman	Al Ish Blanch Ish Narah Ish Willie Mae Ish Nathaniel Ish	Paul Grate Reed Roberta Rose Reed Jemmoe Roff–1883 I. T. Rose Willie Rose
William K. Daces -1943 Tom Ditto Polly Dorsey -1917	Alex Johnson, Sr Alma Johnson -1915 Bertha Johnson Bud Johnson -1947 Charlie Johnson -1952 Eliza J. Johnson -1946 Elize Johnson Jasper Johnson -1944 Tobe Johnson	Loiel Simpson, Jr. 1939 Clint Smith Jenny Smith Jessie Smith -1934
Aggie Flowers Jenetta Flowers Jom Flowers Louise Flowers Pauline Flowers	Mary T. Lane -1879 Mal Miller*	Lumac Thomas -1928 Mary Waters Tom Waters Lou Tommy Waterson Ollie Williams Fannie Wilson* John Wilson -1934 Carlos Winchester
Archie Garrison -1925 Blanche Hickey Gates Mary Jane Givens Willie Givens Sallie Grant -1921 Tena Grant Sam Grant	Mary O’Neal Sam O’Neal Charlie Parker John Henry Parker Cliford Pervis, Sr. Henry Pervis	

*Former Slave