

A Guide to the Pleasant Shade Cemetery (Hampton, Va.) records, compiled 2012-2018

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History

Processed by: Trenton Hizer

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A Guide to the Pleasant Shade Cemetery (Hampton, Va.) records, compiled 2012-2018

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Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

54206

Language

English

Creator

John Mitchell, Mary Kayaselcuk, and Selma Stewart

Extent

1.4 cubic feet (4 boxes)

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Artistine Mears-Lang, Hampton, Virginia, and Mary Kayaselcuk and Selma Stewart, Newport News, Virginia.

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Pleasant Shade Cemetery (Hampton, Va.) records, comp. 2012-2018. Accession 54206. Cemetery records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Historical Information

Pleasant Shade Cemetery, comprising over 20 acres, is the oldest and largest public African American cemetery located on the lower Virginia Peninsula. It is a combination of three earlier burial grounds, Mount Zion (1888), Pleasant Shade (1908) and Holly Grove (1918), and contains an estimated 15,000 burials, of which only a portion have been identified. After its owners abandoned the cemetery, Darnell Lang (1954-2024) and Artistine Mears-Lang founded the East End Neighborhood Association to organize volunteer efforts to save and maintain the cemetery. The cemetery has been divided into 14 sections to make identification of burial sites easier. The cemetery is the resting place for many prominent African American leaders of Hampton and Newport News, Virginia, including James A. Fields (1844-1903), member of the Virginia House of Delegates; attorney and social justice pioneer Joseph Thomas Newsome (1869-1942); evangelist Lightfoot Soloman Michaux (1885-1968); and Jessie Menfield Rattley (1929-2001), the first woman and African American to serve on the Newport News City Council and as mayor of Newport News.

Scope and Content

Cemetery records for Pleasant Shade Cemetery, the oldest African American public cemetery on the Virginia Peninsula. Information compiled 2012-2018 by John Mitchell, Mary Kayaselcuk, and Selma Stewart. Provides name and burial information for identified burials in the 14 sections of the cemetery listed by section and by alphabetical order. Includes information on veterans, notable persons, and persons born in the 1800s.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged

- Series I: Sections
- Series II: Veterans
- Series III: 1800s
- Series IV: Notables
- Series V: Marker surveys
- Series VI: Alphabetical
- Series VII: Search
- Series VIII: General and miscellaneous

Contents List

Sections.

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Extent

Extent: 2 boxes.

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Box 1

Folder 2

Section 1-Galilee--Early births, 1800s, veterans

Box 1

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Section 2-Shiloh

Box 1

Folder 4

Section 3-Ephesus--Map, veterans, burials-verify, 1800s, early briths, notables, blank pages

Box 1

Folder 5

Section 3-Ephesus--Burial by row and plot

Box 1

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Section 4-Philippi--Veterans, 1800s, clergy, notables

Box 1

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Section 4-Philippi--Burial by row and plot

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Section 6-Beulah

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Section 7-Mt. Carmel

Box 1

Folder 11

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Box 1

Folder 12

Section 9-Jericho--Maps, photographs, old sheets, statistics, correspondence, copies, blanks, additions

Box 1

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Section 9-Jericho--Burial by row and plot, revisions and additions

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Section 9-Jericho--Early births, blank sheets, additions, maps

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Folder 4

Section 13-Gethsemane--Burial by row and plot (rows 21-28)

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Box 2

Folder 6

Section 14-Samaria

Box 2

Folder 7

Veterans.

Box 2

Extent

Extent: 1 box.

Veterans

Box 2

Folder 8

1800s.

Box 2

Extent

Extent: 1 box.

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1800s--Early birth sheets-blank and Galilee, 1800 sheets-blank

Box 2

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Folder 14

Notables.

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Extent

Extent: 1 box.

Notables--Maps, statistics, and burials

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Folder 1

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Box 3

Extent

Extent: 1 box.

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Box 3

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Alphabetical.

Boxes 3-4 (box)

Extent

Extent: 2 boxes.

Photographs, article, map, statistics

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Box 3

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Folder 4

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Maps from notebook A-G

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Folder 14

Photographs, maps, papers from notebook P-Z

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X

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Z

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Search.

Box 4

Extent

Extent: 1 box.

Maps, search sheets, notecards, miscellaneous

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Folder 27

Book of statistics

Box 4

Folder 28

Search requests

Box 4

Folder 29

General and miscellaneous.

Box 4

Extent

Extent: 1 box.

Alphabetical listing of burials (draft)

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Research on burials, statistics

Box 4

Folder 31

Newport News death register--African American burials

Box 4

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Photographs on CDs

Box 4

Folder 33

Aerial photograph

Folder 1