

THE LAUREL CEMETERY MEMORIAL PROJECT

UNCOVERING OUR FORGOTTEN PAST

LCMP Newsletter
Volume ★ 005
Number ★ 001
Winter 2026

1852 – 1958

SIGN DEDICATION & COMMEMORATION CEREMONY



The mission of the Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project (LCMP) is to erect a permanent memorial in recognition of the thousands of African Americans who were laid to rest at the historic Laurel Cemetery, ensure the safety and stability of the site into the foreseeable future, and to educate the public about the rich history of the cemetery and the lives of those buried there.

laurelceemetery.omeka.net

In This Issue

1 FEATURES

SIGN DEDICATION & COMMEMORATION CEREMONY
The North Cemetery at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

9 UPDATES

Baltimore City Historical Society Award
Representing Laurel Cemetery
2025 Voluntours

11 RESEARCH

Death Certificate Transcription Project

12 PROFILES

Edna Francis Locks

14 CONNECTIONS

2026 Black Cemetery Network Conference
Friends of Moses Hall

FEATURES

On Saturday September 13th, the Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project achieved a milestone in the placement of a sign commemorating Baltimore's historic Laurel Cemetery at its original Belair Road location. This occasion was attended by over 70 descendants, dignitaries, project members, friends, and other interested parties. The project received Citations and Recognitions from Governor Wes Moore, the Maryland General Assembly, Mayor Brandon Scott, Delegate Jackie Addison, Delegate Calvin Young, the Comptroller of Baltimore City, and Councilman Antonio Glover. ★



Above: Members of the Laurel Cemetery Board of Directors gathered around the new Laurel Cemetery sign along with Delegates Caylin Young and Jacqueline Addison, and Matthew Bradford of the Baltimore City Solicitor's Office.

Below: State Senator Cory McCray delivers remarks at the Laurel Cemetery Sign Dedication and Unveiling.



Watch the recap
video here



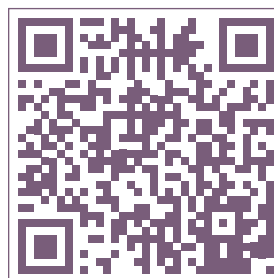
[https://www.facebook.com/
61581357616331/videos/
682858041499830](https://www.facebook.com/61581357616331/videos/682858041499830)

Check out the *Bmore*
News article here



[https://bmorenews.com/
laurel-cemetery-history-
unearthed-ancestors-
remembered/](https://bmorenews.com/laurel-cemetery-history-unearthed-ancestors-remembered/)

Also read about the event in the
Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper



[https://afro.com/laurel-
cemetery-memorial-project/](https://afro.com/laurel-cemetery-memorial-project/)

LAUREL CEMETERY

Sign Dedication & Commemoration Ceremony

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 / 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM / 2401 BELAIR RD, BALTIMORE, MD 21213

Welcome and Occasion

Dr. Elgin Klugh – Coppin State University,
Chair, Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project

Opening Remarks

Historical Significance

Dr. Ronald Castanzo – University of Baltimore,
Board of Directors, Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project

Sharon Haynie and Inez Penn Haynie Dodson –
Laurel Cemetery Descendant Community and
Board of Directors, Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project

Gloria Porter – Baltimore Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society
(BAAHGS) and Board of Directors, Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project

Recognition of Special Guests

Beverly Cooper – Board of Directors, Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project

Staying Connected and Giving Back

Chezia Cager

Dignitary Remarks

Senator Cory M. McCray – 45th Legislative District
Matthew Bradford, Esq. – Chief of Staff to the City Solicitor

Spiritual Meditation

Pastor Rashad Singletary – Mount Olive Baptist Church of Turner Station

Final Thoughts

Beverly Carter, Esq. – Board of Directors, Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project

Ancestral Blessing Ceremony

The Sankofa Project and Kibibi Ajanku

Sign Reveal

FEATURES

THE NORTH CEMETERY AT ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN OWINGS MILLS, BALTIMORE COUNTY

/ WRITTEN BY MALISSA RUFFNER

Beyond the large and well-known African American cemeteries such as Laurel and Mt. Auburn, there are countless smaller cemeteries, many associated with churches, dotting the Baltimore landscape. In his 2020 book, Louis S. Diggs detailed the existence of over 35 burial grounds in Baltimore County, but he also acknowledged the unknown numbers of “slaves and former slaves who were mostly devoted domestic workers” buried in “White cemeteries of their owners.”¹ One burial ground that has, until recently, been unstudied is the “colored cemetery” adjacent to St. Thomas’ Episcopal Churchyard in Owings Mills. Now formally called the “North Cemetery,” it may have been established as a burial ground for the enslaved of a single White family. But its use broadened over the years, and it became closely associated with St. Thomas’ long before the church took title to the property in 1954.²



FEATURES

As part of The Episcopal Church's commitment to racial reconciliation, the Vestry of St. Thomas' Church recently commissioned research to learn as much as possible about the people buried there, as well as the parcel of land. The 1992 published church history makes only a passing reference to it: "Often the servants and slaves of early congregants were buried nearby, in a plot just outside the north cemetery wall...no records were kept...."³

Fortunately, the statement that "no records were kept" is not accurate. Some burials were included in church registers; the earliest was that of Nelly, a black woman, in 1795.⁴ In several instances, the register identifies the White families with whom the people were linked.⁵ Fourteen markers memorialize 15 people, the dates ranging from 1893 to 2012.⁶ These two sources together supply direct evidence of 24 burials. Genealogical and historical research has added another 23 names. But ground-penetrating radar reveals 149 burials, leaving 102 unidentified remains.⁷

Several major clusters were discovered: 19 Breckenridge Family members are known to be buried in the North Cemetery and the Schuyler-Doman-Phipps Family has eight known burials. Using census records and White family probate records, these two families can easily be linked to prominent St. Thomas' parishioners. Civil death records are key, but they are only helpful for more recent deaths. Baltimore County did not require death certificates until 1898, and place of burial was not added to the forms until 1911.

One notable death was reported in the *Baltimore Sun* in 1899. Permilla "Aunt Millie" Schuyler, age 91, was laid to rest with "an unusual amount of respect."⁸ Born to parents enslaved by Captain Robert North, she was freed in 1852 by the will of Robert North Moale, and later worked for his daughter, Ellen Moale Elder.⁹ Her grave is unmarked, no record was made by the church rector, and no death certificate was issued. But the article paints a vivid picture of the event and the social and legal disparities in which the Black and White communities lived.

In contrast, James Hugh Gwathney, "retainer of the Samuel M. Shoemaker family for almost 60 years," was laid to rest in the Shoemaker Family plot within the walls of St. Thomas' Churchyard in 1958.¹⁰ His wife, Rebecca Jones Gwathney, was buried there in 1971.¹¹ They were parents of Alice Gwathney Pinderhughes, the first female superintendent of Baltimore City Public Schools.¹² »

Faithful Servants Buried

The Sun (1837-); Oct 27, 1899; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 7

Faithful Servants Buried.

An unusual amount of respect was paid yesterday by residents of the Green Spring Valley to the remains of Permillia Schuyler, colored, better known as "Aunt Millie" or "Gran." She was a highly respected colored woman, and had been cooking in the Elder family for five generations. Her mother and father were slaves of the late Capt. Robert North. "Aunt Millie" was known by every visitor to the Elder home.

Gray-haired, middle-aged and young residents of the Valley turned out yesterday and followed her body from her home to her grave. The Green Spring Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, where the funeral service was held, was crowded. Rev. Alfred Young, of Asbury Colored Church, Baltimore, conducted the services, assisted by Rev. William R. J. Williams, pastor of the church. After the remains had been placed in the grave in the cemetery adjoining St. Thomas' Protestant Episcopal Church, and the grave covered with flowers by the young ladies present, many of the white people present wept bitterly.

Among those present were Rev. Hobart Smith, rector of St. Thomas' Church; Mr. George H. Elder, Mrs. Robert N. Elder, Miss Ellen N. Elder, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Spencer, Mr. G. Howard Stirling, Miss Fannie Spencer, Mrs. Horace W. White, Miss Edwina Elder, Mrs. Wilson O. Nicholas, Mrs. Thomas Cradock, Miss Cradock and Charles E. Shipley.

"Aunt Millie" was 91 years old, and was born in the Green Spring Valley. She is said to have been given away at one time by a mother to her daughter as a wedding present. She died on Tuesday. The pallbearers were Harry Snowden, Jarrett Davis, George Washington Gross and Isalah Carrington. J. H. Kraft, of Pikesville, had charge of the funeral arrangements.



The spiritual lives of Permillia Schuyler, James and Rebecca Gwathney were celebrated at the Green Spring Valley Methodist Episcopal Church in Chattolane before their bodies were brought to St. Thomas' for burial. Chattolane was home to many of those formerly enslaved by wealthy members of St. Thomas'; parishioner Charles Morton Stewart donated part of his estate, *Cliffeholme*, for the construction of the church, built in 1881.¹³

On the Sunday closest to Juneteenth, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church holds an annual Service of Remembering for those buried in the North Cemetery. Participants read the names aloud and acknowledge the many who remain unidentified. Hope remains that more names will be found. The unearthing of African American funeral home records or the discovery of family papers and letters by Black and White Green Spring Valley descendants could offer new information.¹⁴ One addition to the list stemmed from a childhood memory. A man recalled attending his grandmother's graveside service as a boy; her 1943 death record confirmed his recollection.¹⁵ Other African American families with historical ties to Chattolane and the Green Spring Valley may have their own memories of a connection to the North Cemetery.

An article summarizing the results of the multi-stage research project, with a complete list of currently known burials, will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Maryland Genealogical Society Journal*. ★

MALISSA RUFFNER, a native of western Pennsylvania, came to the Baltimore area to attend Goucher College. A 1985 graduate of the University of Maryland Law School, she worked for the ACLU of Maryland on significant civil rights cases involving the right to education and racial discrimination in public housing. She earned an MLS from the University Maryland, College Park in 2002.

A Board-certified genealogist since 2014, Malissa served on the Board of the Maryland Genealogical Society from 2012 until 2022, including two years as the managing editor of the *Maryland Genealogical Society Journal*. She has worked for the Georgetown Memory Project, tracing descendants of slaves held on Jesuit plantations in Maryland, since 2016.



FEATURES

Notes

1. Louis S. Diggs, *African Americans Laid to Rest in Baltimore County, Maryland* ([Baltimore, Md.]: Louis Diggs, 2020), p. 4. I am indebted to the author for including the cemetery of St. Thomas Cemetery, associated with the original location of Union Bethel Church on Liberty Road, allowing me to distinguish burials in Randallstown from those in Owings Mills. See Diggs, *African Americans Laid to Rest in Baltimore County, Maryland*, p. 104.
2. Md., Land Records GLB 2630: 407, Deed from Henry Lay Duer and Katherine M. Duer to The Vestry of St. Thomas Parish or Church, 31 December 1954; digital images, Maryland State Archives [MSA], *MDLandRec.Net* (www.mdlandrec.net).
3. Marie Forbes, *A History of St. Thomas' Parish, 1888 -1992, Vol. II* (Baltimore: [publisher not identified], 1992), p. 321. This volume was published with a reprint of *The Garrison Church, Sketches of the History of ST. Thomas' Parish Garrison Forest Baltimore County, Maryland 1742-1852* by Rev. Ethan Allen, edited by Rev. Hobert Smith in 1898 (New York: James Pott & Co, 1898).
4. Martha Reamy, *St. Thomas Parish Deaths and Burials: Owings Mills, Maryland 1728-1995* (Westminster, Md.: Heritage Books, 2015), p. 77.
5. Ibid, pp. 45, 102.
6. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church North Cemetery (Owings Mills, Md.), 1) Susan Breckenridge, Died June 9, 1893—Edward Breckenridge, Her Husband, Died Dec. 7, 1892. Aged 77 Years, and 2) Mary E. Breckenridge, Jan. 13, 1926 - Jan. 15, 2012, Forever in Our Hearts; personally read, 2022.
7. Omega Mapping Services, "Cemetery Mapping Project, Omega Mapping Services, June 14, 2024"; St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Parish Hall. The mapping discovering process discovered 134 unmarked burials.
8. "Faithful Servants Buried." *The Baltimore Sun*, 27 October 1899, p. 7; digital images, *ProQuest Historical Newspapers* via Enoch Pratt Free Library.
9. Baltimore Co., Md., Register of Wills, Wills JLR 1: 148, Will of Robert N. Moale, proven 11 November 1853; MSA CM188; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Md. 1880 U.S. census, Baltimore Co., Md., pop. sched., District 3, ED 229, p. 549A (stamped), dwelling 188, family 188, Ellen N. Elder, head of household, Millie Schuyler, servant.
10. "J. H. Gwathney, 76, Retainer of Shoemaker Family, Dies" *The Baltimore Sun*, 20 January 1958, p. 13.
11. Multiple contributors, "Find A Grave," database, *FindAGrave.com*: accessed 17 July 2025), Alice Rebecca Jones Gwathney, memorial 85254228.
12. Louis S. Diggs, *In Our Voices: A Folk History in Legacy* (Baltimore: Uptown Press, 1998), p. 9. Mike Bowler, "Alice Pinderhughes dies; headed city schools in '80s; Superintendent was first woman to head system," *Baltimore Sun*, 17 November 1995, p. 1A.
13. Louis S. Diggs, "Chattolane in Green Spring Valley, Chattolane, MD," *In Our Voices: A Folk History in Legacy* (Baltimore: Uptown Press, 1998), pp. 8-31. Stewart was a senior vestryman at St. Thomas'; see Reamy, *St. Thomas Parish Deaths and Burials: Owings Mills, Maryland 1728 -1995*, p. 101. Dawn F. Thomas, *The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage*, 2 vols. (Baltimore, Md.: Maryland Historical Society, 1978), 1: 178.
14. I am indebted to Donna T. Hollie for her work in this area and her assistance locating relevant collections. See Hollie, Donna T., "African American Morticians," blog post, 21 January 2020; *Remembering Baltimore and Beyond*; <https://www.rememberingbaltimore.net/2020/01/african-american-morticians.html>.
15. Md., Board of Health, death certificate no. 9723 (1 September 1943, Baltimore County), Elizabeth Lee; MSA SE43.

UPDATES

BALTIMORE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARD

On Saturday October 11th, the co-editors (Isaac Shearn and Elgin Klugh) and contributors to *A Place for Memory: Baltimore's Historic Laurel Cemetery* received a "2025 Historian/Scholar" award from the Baltimore City Historical Society. This event was held at the Stony Run Friends Meeting in Baltimore. Awardees from the Laurel Cemetery Project included Glenn Blackwell, Beverly Carter, Ron Castanzo, Donna T. Hollie, Elgin Klugh, Edward C. Papenfuse, Robert W. Schoeberlein, and Isaac Shearn.



Above: Left to right – Elgin Klugh, Isaac Shearn, John Carter, Beverly Carter, and Beverly Cooper.

REPRESENTING LAUREL CEMETERY

Maryland Center for History and Culture

On Thursday, March 27th, Elgin Klugh joined Johns Hopkins Historian, Dr. Martha Jones, and Judge Wanda Keyes Heard for a panel discussion at the Maryland Center for History and Culture. This event was an in-depth conversation surrounding Dr. Jones's newest publication, *The Trouble of Color: An American Family Memoir*. Dr. Jones shared conversation with Elgin Klugh, PhD, President of the Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project and professor at Coppin State University, on the processes and importance of genealogical research and family history.

The Bethesda Theater

On Tuesday, June 3rd, Elgin Klugh served as a panelist in the discussion following the premiere of the short documentary, "Help Us to Help Each Other, Lord: The Story of Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88 of Cabin John, Maryland." This film traces the history of an African American benevolent society during a time of racial segregation in Maryland. Additional panelists included:

- 1) Kami Fletcher, Associate Professor, African Diasporic Histories, Goucher College
- 2) Lisa Fager Executive Director, Black Georgetown Foundation
- 3) Chris Haley, Director, Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, Maryland State Archives

The panel was moderated by L. Paige Whitley, Local Historian, Screenwriter and Director of the documentary, "Help Us to Help Each Other, Lord: The Story of Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88 of Cabin John, Maryland"

The Enoch Pratt Free Library

On Wednesday, October 15th, Elgin Klugh joined local Historian and Archivist, Nancy Bramucci Sheads at the Central Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library for a lunch and learn presentation titled, "Serving up Wisdom: Exploring Baltimore's Historic Black Cemeteries."

UPDATES

2025 LAUREL CEMETERY "VOLUNTOURS" ON MARCH 22ND & MAY 17TH

Thank you to the over seventy individuals who joined members of the Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project for an hour-long trash clean-up followed by a history tour of the Belair Road site. This activity was partially sponsored by Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Historical Trust. A special thanks is extended to Molly Ricks and Baltimore Heritage, Inc. for helping to organize this event.



Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project
1852 1958

**LAUREL CEMETERY
VOLUNTOUR:
TRASH CLEAN-UP &
HISTORY TOUR**

Join us for a community cleanup & guided tour of the historic Laurel Cemetery! Help preserve the past while exploring its hidden stories. Learn about one of Baltimore's forgotten African-American Burial Grounds, currently the site of the Belair-Edison Crossing Shopping Center.

REGISTER NOW!

17 Saturday, March 22, 2025
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
**Grassy Area @ 2401 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21213**

**CLEAN UP
COMMUNITY**

Thank You To Our Sponsors!

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NEH
BALTIMORE

SCAN ME



RESEARCH

THE DEATH CERTIFICATE TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT

The Death Certificate Transcription Project is moving forward! Volunteers from the Baltimore Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (BAAHGS) are continuing the search through Baltimore City death certificates to identify those indicating burials at Laurel Cemetery. As of January 1st, 2026, the total number identified is greater than 29,000!

There are thousands upon thousands of more death certificates that need to be searched. We are looking for committed volunteers who are willing to be trained in the process. Through this effort, we are amassing a database that can be used by genealogists and other researchers. We are pulling up to 21 data points off each identified death certificate.

These can be collectively used to analyze residential, cause of death, and occupational patterns and more. If you are interested in joining this effort, please reach out to LCMPBaltimore@gmail.com. Additionally, we encourage you to become a member of BAAHGS! [Click here to learn more.](#)

Right: One of the death certificates transcribed by BAAHGS volunteers. See if you can decipher the occupation and cause of death.

Board of Health, City of Baltimore,
OFFICE OF REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Permit No. 38984

The Physician who attended any person in a last illness is responsible for the presentation of this Certificate, accurately filled out, to the undertaker or other person superintending the burial, within twenty-four hours after the death of said deceased, or sooner, if requested so to do, under penalty of law.

NO PERMIT FOR BURIAL CAN BE OBTAINED WITHOUT A PROPER CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

Date of Death, April 7th 1880

Full Name of Deceased, { Write in full and spell accurately if no habit has acquired, give names of parents } *Bonnie Newman*

Sex, Male or Female, { Circle one for each sex } *Male*

Age, 31 Years, 4 Months, 14 Days

Color, *Colored* Sex, *Male*

Married, Single, Widow or Widower, { Circle one for each } *Single*

Occupation, *Ex Soldier since which time about 4 years disabled*

Birthplace, { State or country (and how long in the United States, if of foreign birth) } *Baltimore Md.*

Duration of Residence in the City of Baltimore, *about 26 years*

Place of Death, { Give street and number } *No 46 Sarah Ann St Baltimore Md.*

Cause of Death, { First (Primary) } *Shrapnel from an Indian arrow in the back*
{ Second (Immediate) } *Consumption & Hemoptysis*

Duration of Last Sickness, *about 4 weeks*

Place of Burial, *Laurel Cemetery*

Date of Burial, *April 10 1880*

Under signer, *J. W. Chase* Address *1904 Howard St*

Place of Business, *1904 Howard St*

Medical Attendant, *J. W. Chase* M. D.

Extract from Regulations of the Board of Health to secure a full and correct record of Vital Statistics in the City of Baltimore.

SECTION 2. And it be further enacted and ordained, That whenever any person shall die in the said city, it shall be the duty of the Physician who attended during his or her last sickness, or the Coroner, when the case comes under his notice, to furnish within forty-eight hours after the death, to the Undertaker or other person or persons superintending the burial, a Certificate

PROFILES

EDNA FRANCIS LOCKS: UNSUNG ENTREPRENEUR

/ DONNA T. HOLLIE

Edna Francis Locks, the eldest child of **Benjamin and Alverta Virginia Dutton Francis**, was born in Baltimore on August 1, 1883. Her paternal relatives had roots in the Cape Verdes Islands, near the west coast of Africa, which had been colonized by Portugal. Locks descended maternally from free people of color of Dorchester County, Maryland. Benjamin and Alverta had fifteen children, only seven of whom were alive in 1900. Literacy was common in both family lines and many family members worked in skilled trades.

In 1904 Edna Francis married **Joseph Garland Locks**, whose family had been free in Baltimore since the eighteenth century. Joseph Locks operated a funeral business with origins dating to the mid nineteenth century, started by his grandfather. Edna and Joseph had five children; their only daughter died on Christmas day 1909.

Joseph G. Locks died suddenly in July 1911 leaving his wife to raise four children on her own. Her youngest son, **Joseph G. Locks Jr.**, who would subsequently operate the business for seven decades, was a year old at his father's passing. With minimal marketable skills and no government sponsored social programs to rely on for assistance, Locks was supported by family members and likely received funds from churches, fraternal groups and benevolent societies common in Baltimore's African American community.

To be able to support her family independently, Locks appealed to the Maryland State Board of Undertakers for a license to continue operating her husband's business. Her request was granted, and in November 1911 she became the first African American female licensed as a funeral director in Maryland. For twenty years she operated the business in East Baltimore and due, in large measure, to her dedication and commitment, the Locks Funeral Home was recognized in 2024 by the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, as the oldest, continuously owned, African American funeral home in the nation.

By 1920, Locks had earned enough money to retire the mortgage on the property at 1302 Jefferson St. While raising four sons, Locks made time for community, church and social activities. She served as the treasurer of the Funeral Directors Association of Maryland (for African Americans). Of the ten officers and board members there was only one other female, who was the chaplain. Locks was also a member of the East Baltimore Committee of the Colored YWCA.

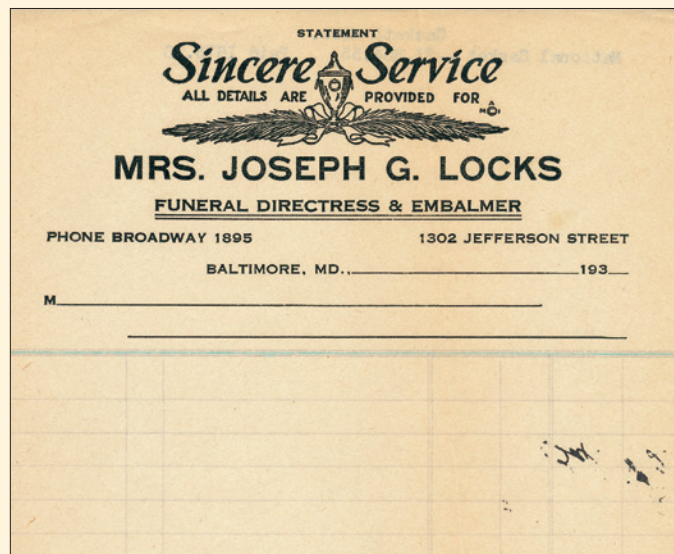
A member of Waters A.M.E Church, Locks was the chaplain and subsequently the president of the church's ushers' group. Another Waters organization in which Locks held elective office was the Allen Christian Endeavor League (A.C.E. League). This group, of which Locks was secretary and, subsequently financial secretary, was dedicated to preparing young people for Christian leadership.

Although Locks never remarried, she led an active social life, attending parties, boat excursions and weddings, as reported in the society pages of the *Baltimore Afro American* newspaper.

Joined in the business by her son, Joseph G. Locks, Jr. in 1929, they were co-owners of the business until her illness and death in 1934. In his advertisements her son always acknowledged that he was successor to Mrs. Joseph G. Locks. Her grandson and great grandson were both involved, the grandson as a funeral director and mortician and her great grandson as a manager. In 2017, following the deaths of her son and grandson, the Locks Funeral Home was closed. Edna Francis Locks was the bridge that carried the firm from the ante-bellum era to the twenty-first century.



Courtesy of the *AFRO-American Newspapers Archives*



She participated in the lawsuit against the city in hopes of preventing the widening of Belair Road and the reduction of the area occupied by Laurel Cemetery. Locks died on March 16, 1934 after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. She was interred in Laurel Cemetery on March 20, 1934.*

Locks lived during an era when most women, especially those of African descent, were relegated to menial employment and bore most of the responsibility for maintaining households and for nurturing children. Additionally, most women who had careers requiring exceptional knowledge and skills were single and childless. Edna Francis Locks successfully maintained a prospering business, supported church and civic activities and raised children who carried on her legacy in similar areas.

*Locks' death certificate, with information supplied by Joseph M. Skinner, undertaker, indicates she was buried in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. However, her son, Joseph G. Locks, Jr. (1910-2003), her niece, Helena Hall Hairston, (1923-2022) and her granddaughter, Jeanne Locks Robinson, (1929-present) all indicate she was buried in Laurel. Robinson has childhood memories of "going to the cemetery on Belair Road" with her father to visit Locks' grave.



Locks Family Archives

CONNECTIONS

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2026 BLACK CEMETERY NETWORK CONFERENCE



DAY 1

Thursday, May 21, 2026

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Registration, Conference Welcome and Opening Remarks by
Dr. Antoinette Jackson. Refreshments provided.

DAY 2

Friday, May 22, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Keynote Speakers: **Rep. Fentrice Driskell** and **Dr. Michael Blakey**.
Reception to follow.

LOCATION

USFSP Student Centers & Events

200 6th Ave S. USC 173

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

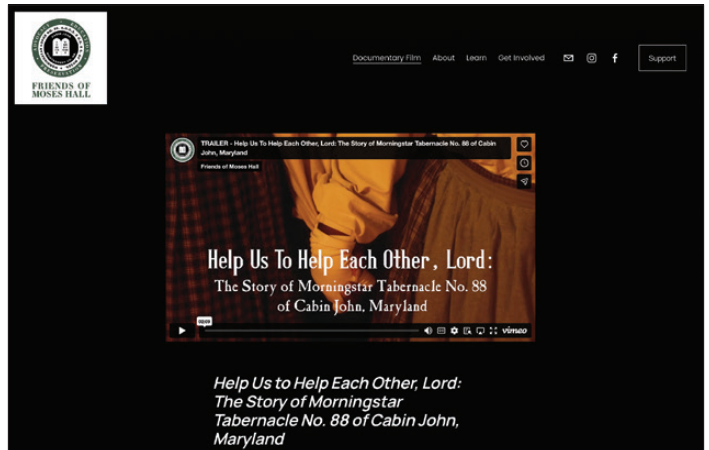
FRIENDS OF MOSES HALL

Check out the work and activities of the Friends of Moses Hall, Inc. in Cabin John, MD.

From their website, *friendsofmoseshall.org*:

“Friends of Moses Hall, inc. is a descendant-centered nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the historic **Morningstar Tabernacle NO. 88 Cemetery and Hall** in Cabin John, Maryland. Founded in the late 19th century by the local Black community, Morningstar Tabernacle NO. 88 served as a mutual aid society, gathering space, and burial ground – playing a vital role in the spiritual and civic life of its community.”

On their website, you can view the trailer for documentary, “Help us to Help Each Other, Lord: The Story of Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88 of Cabin John, Maryland.” Use the QR code below or click here to see the trailer.



<https://www.friendsofmoseshall.org/helpustohelppeachother-docfilm>

A PLACE FOR MEMORY

You can purchase our book

A Place for Memory:

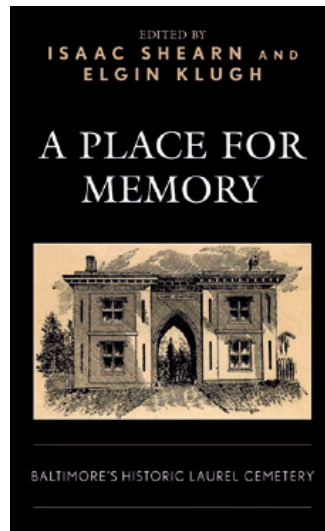
Baltimore's Historic Laurel

Cemetery at Rowman &

Littlefield Publishers.



[https://www.bloomsbury.com/
us/place-for-memory-
9781538156131/](https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/place-for-memory-9781538156131/)



LCMP ON FACEBOOK

Follow us on our Facebook group called

Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project.



[https://www.facebook.com/
people/Laurel-Cemetery-
Memorial-Project/61581357616331/](https://www.facebook.com/people/Laurel-Cemetery-Memorial-Project/61581357616331/)

laurelcemetery.omeka.net

DONATIONS

To donate to the project, please send
a check or money order to:

Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project, Inc.

4638 Chatsworth Way

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

You can also donate on **PayPal**.

Scan the QR code to the right or visit

laurelcemetery.omeka.net/donate.



INQUIRIES

Questions about the Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project?

Email lcmpbaltimore@gmail.com

MEETINGS

For information about meetings and/or volunteering,

please contact lcmpbaltimore@gmail.com

or visit laurelcemetery.omeka.net.



LCMP OFFICERS

Elgin L. Klugh, *Chair*

Molly Ricks, *Secretary*

Beverly Cooper, *Treasurer*