

**A PRELIMINARY HISTORICAL REPORT:
THE BAPTIST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
LOCATED NEAR HOLLAND LANE**

by

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**Alexandria Archaeology Publications
Number 20**

Alexandria Archaeology
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City of Alexandria, Virginia
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Foreword

The Alexandria Archaeology Publications series is composed of papers on various aspects of research conducted under the auspices of Alexandria Archaeology, a division of the Office of Historic Alexandria, City of Alexandria, Virginia. The authors include professional staff members, university students and Alexandria Archaeology volunteers. Editing of the papers has been kept to a minimum. It should be understood that the papers vary in tone and level of technicality, since they were originally directed toward many different audiences.

We are pleased to offer the papers within this series and in so doing are opening our "manuscripts on file" - including professional conference papers, background documentary studies, student course papers, and volunteer research papers - to professionals and public alike.

Pamela J. Cressey, Ph.D.
City Archaeologist
1991

After a series of inquiries regarding the presence of a Black cemetery located south of Duke Street near Holland Lane, the Alexandria Archaeology staff conducted a brief study. A portion of this property is currently under consideration for the construction of shelters for the homeless according to Bob Simon with the Alexandria Mental Health Association. The City of Alexandria Parks and Recreation Department maintains the land.

After we consulted several older Alexandrians, Harry Burke with the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, Jim Saunders of the Parks and Recreation Department, and Michael Miller of the Lloyd House Library, an overview of the property in the latter half of the nineteenth century emerged. At the time, this area was part of "West End Alexandria" which was in Fairfax County, not the City of Alexandria. Mike Miller provided the documents which led to this historic overview.

By 1877, William J. Holland owned a large tract just south of the Virginia Midlands Railroad (see Attachment 1). Three buildings are outlined on the 1877 G.M. Hopkins Map. They stand on the northwest corner of the property (currently near Holland Lane and the railroad tracks). The use of the buildings is not presently known; however, the large one was constructed of stone or brick while the two smaller structures were depicted on the map as frame stables or sheds. The map shows that Hooff's Run transected the property as it

flowed into Hunting Creek. The land was later conveyed to George Keys.

In 1885, a one acre parcel of a four acre land holding owned by Keys was conveyed to Thomas Mann (see Attachment 2). Mann represented the Baptist Cemetery Association. If the road on the Hopkins map north of the Holland property (now Holland Lane) is used as the "John Street" noted in the deed, the outline of this acreage would be approximately that shown in red ink (see Attachment 1). (It is interesting to note that the property just to the north was owned by John H. Watkins, possibly the origin of John Street.) As can be determined with the present evidence, the one acre cemetery was located west of National Cemetery between Hooff's Run and Holland (John Street) Lane.

Papers of incorporation for the Baptist Cemetery Association of Alexandria, Virginia are one file at the Lloyd House Library (Attachment 3). On November 13, 1885, these papers were filed in Fairfax County. Thomas Mann was one of the signatories for incorporation and held the office of General Superintendent. Several others signed the document:

Henry L. Webb

Charles H. Lee

-----R. Tayer (difficult to read)

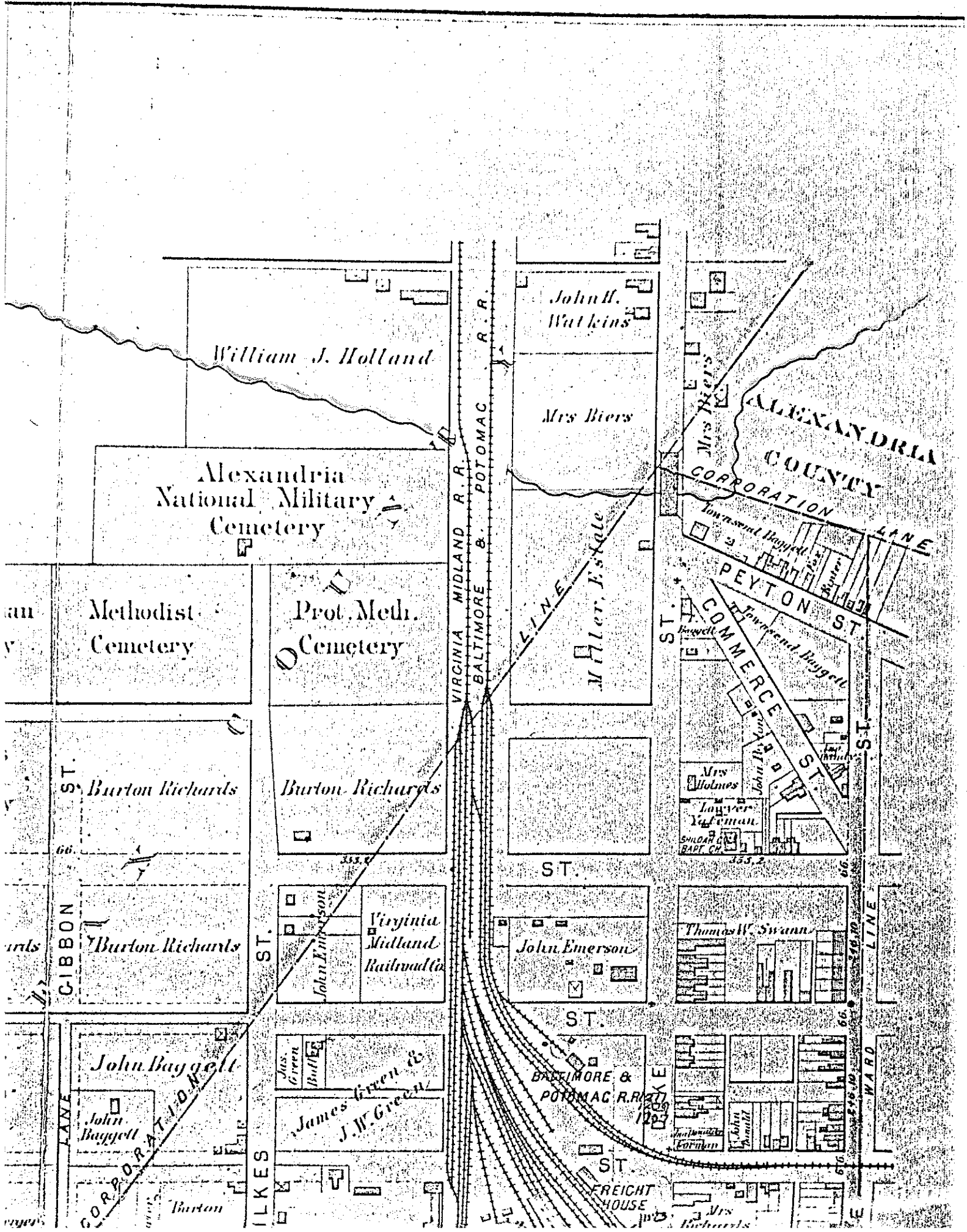
Allan Robinson

They are identified as "having been appointed by a meeting of

the members of the Silver leaf (Colored) Society of Alexandria, Va..." Chataigne's Alexandria Directory of 1888-1889 records Webb as a black laborer living at 216 No. Henry Street; Lee as a black laborer living at 1501 King Street; Robinson, Tayer and Mann are not listed, although many other Robinsons are in the directory.

No evidence has been found to indicate that anyone was buried in this cemetery; gravestones are not visible above the ground surface. However, the incorporation papers clearly state "That the object of said cemetery is to furnish a place for the interment of the dead of all persons who shall purchase lots..." If books exist which document burials in the cemetery, they have not been discovered. Anyone knowing individuals related to the people mentioned above or the presence of old documents in private homes is encouraged to contact Alexandria Archaeology or the Lloyd House Library.

In order to determine the presence of building, burials and other historic artifacts on the property, an archaeological assessment is needed prior to any ground disturbance. , further archival research is also recommended on the property's history and current ownership.



Attachment 2.

Alexandria - Cemetery

Part of a 4 acre tract on John street - 1 acre taken out of the Southwest corner beg. at the intersection of the east line of Johns street with the south line from the railroad (Virginia Midland) and runs south with the east line of Johns street 556.6 inches to Rotchford's line then east with Rotchford's line 249.6 to the east bank of Hooff's run. North with the bank of the 570 ft. to the south line of the railroad then west with the line of railroad 377 ft.6.

Property owned by Bossart in 1850 - Conveyed by him to Holland to Geo. Keys who held it in 1885 - Then conveyed to Thomas Mann, trustee of the cemetery.

Fairfax County Deed: V5, p. 29; Bosart conveyance S3, p. 324.

ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY: Lloyd House
220 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

To the Hon. James Keith Judge of the
Circuit Court of Fairfax County -

We the undersigned having been
appointed by a meeting of the members of
the Silver Leaf Colored Society of Alexandria
Va to petition your Honor to grant them
a Charter of incorporation for a Cemetery to
be located in Fairfax County Va near the
National Cemetery at Alexandria would re-
spectfully certify that this association shall
be known as ^{The} Baptist Cemetery Assoc-
iation of Alexandria Va.

That the object of said Cemetery is to
provide a place for the interment of the dead
of all persons who shall purchase lots
to be laid out That the Capital stock of this
Association shall be (\$300) three hundred dollars
divided into thirty shares of ten dollars each
That the amount of Real Estate proposed to be held
by said Association shall be one acre more
or less That the principal office of said

Association shall be kept and the chief
business shall be transacted at West End
Alexandria Va. - That Henry C. Boyd was
appointed President, Charles H. Lee Vice Pres-
ident - Henry L. Webb Secretary, Thomas
H. Mann General Superintendent, and
Allen Robinson Treasurer. That said of-
ficers shall remain in office during the
first year, for which time they shall
manage the affairs of the Association.

Witness our
hands & seals this 13 day of Nov^r 1885

Henry L. Webb

Seal

Charles H. Lee

Seal

Henry C. Boyd

Seal

Thomas H. Mann

Seal

Leanne R. Jager

Seal

Allen Robinson

Seal

John C. Catts, P.P.
Fairfax Co Va

Fairfax County, Va. Circuit,

I John E. Catts, a Justice of the
Peace of Fairfax County do hereby certify
that Henry L. Wells, Charles H. Lee, Henry
C. Boyd, Thomas H. Mann, James R. Jones
and Allen Robinson whose names
are signed to the writing hereto at-
tached bearing date the 13th Nov 1883
acknowledged the same before me
in my County aforesaid & given under
my hand this 13th day of November 1883

John E. Catts - Justice Peace of
Nov 13th 1883 - Fairfax County, Va

