

Donate to Preserve Historic Ellsworth Cemetery



Ellsworth Cemetery was created on December 21, 1876, when six Black United States Army Veterans filed Maryland Articles of Incorporation to provide a burial place “for the Colored residents of Westminster, Maryland”. Reuben Walker, David Ireland, William Massey, William Adams, Lewis Dorsey and Samuel Bowens were the six founders. At the time, local laws prohibited the burying of African Americans within the city limits of Westminster. Therefore, this cemetery was located just outside the incorporated city limits of that time.

Over the decades, Ellsworth Cemetery has fallen in and out of repair. In the early years of the 21st century, many groups (including the Boy Scouts of America, Maryland State Troopers of the Westminster Barracks, Union Memorial Baptist Church, Pritts Funeral Home and Branch 7014 of the NAACP recruited and organized by Mr. George Murphy) have reclaimed and restored the cemetery. Unfortunately, vandals, nearby construction and simple neglect have damaged or destroyed many of the sometimes simple, sometimes elaborate, and always historic headstones.

To quote a report made to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development about this project, “A community that respects its history and those who lived it, has the right to call itself civilized.”

http://carrollcommunityfoundation.org/funds.asp?fund_id=365



Funds will be used to maintain the cemetery (mowing and landscaping), repair headstones, support research and provide community outreach. Members of the Advisory Committee are all unpaid volunteers.

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