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Wake County Planning, Development and Inspections
PO Box 550 Wake County Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27602-0550 336 Fayetteville Street, Downtown Raleigh
Contact (919) 856-6335 for additional information.

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Rec'd Date
Rec'd By

Petitioner

Name Deborah Joy, Legacy Research Associates, on behalf of Gordon Poulsen, Land Developer

Telephone Number 919-215-6469 Fax Number djoy@legacy-research.com

Address 125 W Woodridge Dr

City Durham State NC Zip Code 27707

Subject Property Address and Parcel Identification Number (PIN):

2520 New Hill Olive Chapel Road in Buckhorn Township PIN 0710747480

Reason for Petition:

Grave Removal to accomodate the sale of the property to allow for future residential development by others

The undersigned applicant hereby certifies that, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, all information supplied with this application is true and accurate.

Signature: Deborah Joy Date: June 25, 2018

Property Owner

Name William Larry Elmore + Deborah M. Elmore

Telephone Number 919/362-9320 E-Mail delmorefarm@belkouth.net

Address 2520 New Hill Olive Chapel Rd.

City New Hill State NC Zip Code 27562

All property owners must sign this application (please attach separate sheet for signatures if needed) unless one or more individuals are specifically authorized to act as an agent on behalf of the collective interest of some or all of the owners (provide a copy of such authorization).

The undersigned property owner(s) hereby authorize the filing of this application (and any subsequent revisions thereto). The filing of this application authorizes the Wake County staff to enter upon the site to conduct relevant site inspections as deemed necessary to process the application. All documents and maps submitted as required become the property of Wake County.

Signature: William Larry Elmore
Deborah M. Elmore Date: 6/26/18

Revised Technical Report

Historical and Archaeological Investigations of the Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery
2520 New Hill Olive Chapel Road in Buckhorn Township, Wake County, North Carolina
Wake County NC Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 0710747480

Prepared for
Gordon Poulson, Land Developer
Forsyth Investments Company LLC
414 Forsyth Street
Raleigh, NC 27600

Prepared by
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Legacy Research Associates
125 West Woodridge Drive
Durham, NC 27707



4 October 2018

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Historical and Archaeological Investigations of the Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery
2520 New Hill Olive Chapel Road in Buckhorn Township, Wake County, North Carolina
Wake County NC Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 0710747480

Introduction

This technical report details the historic research and systematic archaeological exploration of an abandoned cemetery located in a wooded area at 2520 New Hill Olive Chapel Road in Buckhorn Township, Wake County, North Carolina (NC) (Figure 1). The land is identified as Wake County NC Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 0710747480. The property is owned by William Larry Elmore and wife, Deborah M. Elmore (DB 6270:831) and is referred to as the Elmore Property. It is under contract for proposed development with Forsyth Investments Company, LLC, in Raleigh, NC. The historic research and archaeological work were conducted by Legacy Research Associates in Durham, NC, for Gordon Poulson, land developer, with Forsyth Investments Company, LLC, Raleigh, NC.

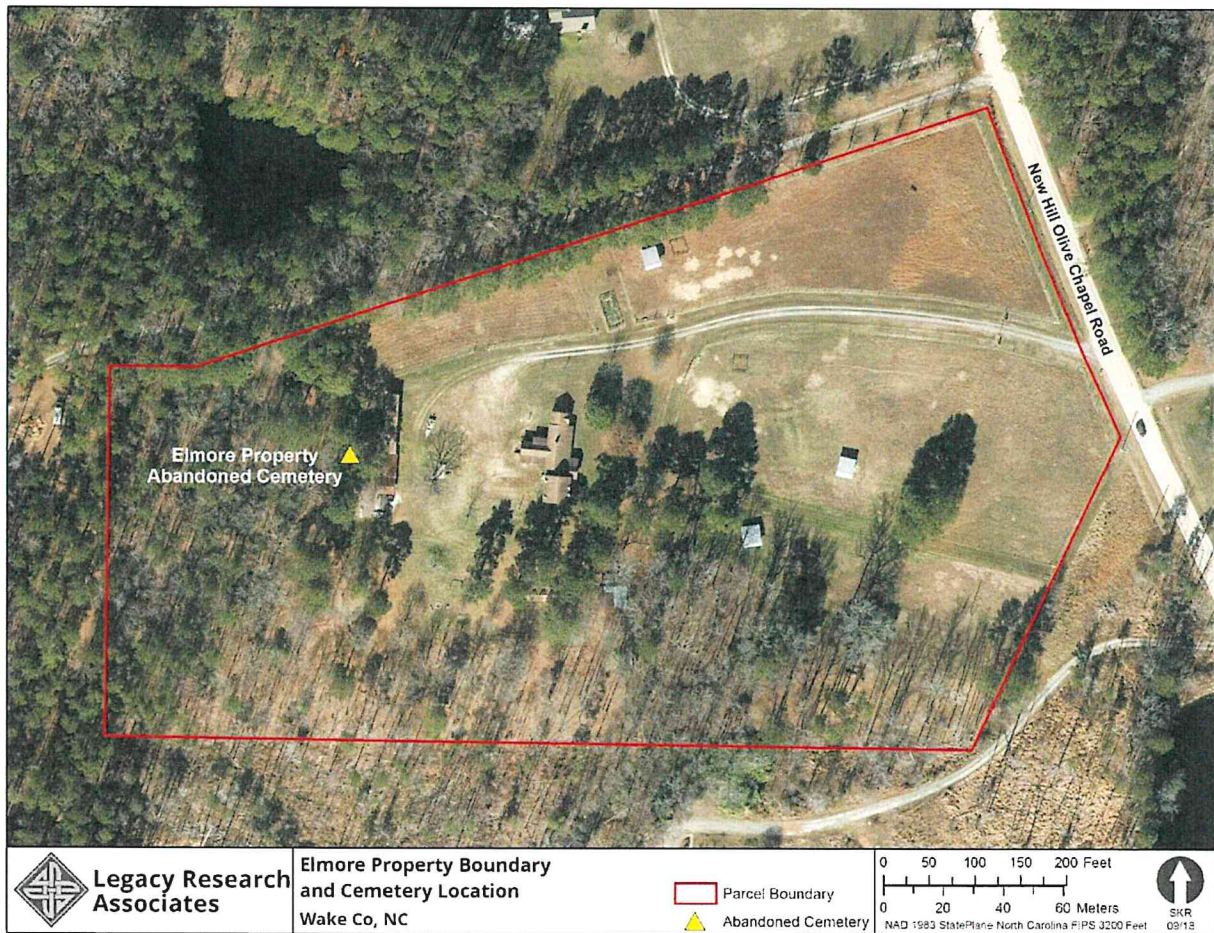


Figure 1. Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery location on aerial image.

Cultural Context

To provide context for understanding cemeteries in the American South, the following information has been extracted and summarized from <https://www.sciway.net/hist/chicora/gravematters.html>. Other references include *The Southern Folk Cemetery in Piedmont North Carolina* (Clauser 1984) and *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy* (Jordan 1982).

The Southern Folk Cemetery tradition was introduced to the American South during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. It is characterized by a hilltop location, scraped ground surface, mounded graves, creative gravemarkers and decorations using readily available (not commercially produced) materials, certain species of vegetation, grave shelters, and evidence of devotion to God and/or parents and family with graveyard workdays and monument dedications. Since the regional distribution of this cemetery type coincides with southern culture, this cemetery is known as “Southern Folk.”

Some traditions associated with historic cemeteries include wife-to-the-left burials, bordered family plots, and feet-to-the-east interments. Wife-to-the-left (or husband-to-the-right) is a traditional interment position for married couples that apparently derives from a Christian belief that Eve was created from the left side of Adam. The basis of feet-to-the-east burials can be linked to sun worship cults found in Europe at the advent of Christianity.

There are three distinct models of the Southern Folk Cemetery that have progressed over time: Pioneer, Transitional, and Modern. The diverse aspects of each type provides a glimpse into the evolution of attitudes toward death through time. A description of these three types follows.

Pioneer Model

The Pioneer Model is the earliest Southern Folk Cemetery tradition and is found in remote rural areas. These cemeteries are small and burials were not limited to the immediate family, as extended family ties that formed when families intermarried were significant.

Important and distinctive traits of the Pioneer Model cemetery include (1) that it was often located on a hilltop, (2) that periodically the ground was scraped clean of grass, and (3) that the graves were laid out in an east-west direction, nearly aligned, and mounded with dirt. The clean cemetery showed honor and respect for ancestors. Grave mounds identified the grave location and compensated for the settling of soil within the grave shaft. Grave markings, when present, included a fieldstone or wooden stake that marked the head and/or foot of the grave. The dominant vegetation in the Pioneer Model cemetery is the eastern red cedar tree, which is referred to as the “cemetery tree.”

Honoring the family buried in the cemetery was a customary practice of the community where maintenance and “keeping up” of the burial ground was important. The graveyard workday was an annual event, in late summer or early fall, when members of the community gathered to pay respect to the memory of deceased ancestors. It was often an all-day affair when grass was scraped, graves were mounded, gravemarkers were placed or replaced, decorations were bestowed, repairs were made, and trash was removed.

Transitional Model

The Transitional Model dates from the mid- to late nineteenth century and in some areas of the South the tradition continues today. It is characterized by (1) the presence of family plots, (2) a mixture of scraped plots and grassy areas, (3) the absence of creative markings, decorations, or grave shelters, and (4) the eventual decline of the community gathering to collectively honor and respect those interred. The Transitional Model also marked the decline of mounded graves and an increase in the use of commercially produced gravemarkers or tombstones with epitaphs and sometimes with portraits.

The Transitional Model cemetery also introduced different varieties of vegetation, such as magnolia and crape myrtle trees. Cedar trees and flowering shrubs, such as roses, azaleas, and forsythia, were often included. Other vegetation in Transitional Model cemeteries are yucca, English ivy, and periwinkle. By the mid-twentieth century, artificial flowers had largely replaced living flowers.

Modern Model

After World War II, the South experienced a cultural change toward modernization that extended into burial customs. Examples of this trend can be seen in the use of urban memorial gardens and perpetual-care mortuary complexes, while family cemeteries were rarely used and fell out of widespread practice. Some memorial gardens continue to exhibit aspects of the Traditional Model with bordered and sometimes scraped family burial plots. However, modernizing trends, such as standardized and commercially produced markers with fewer epitaphs and more plastic flowers, are commonplace.

Historic Research Overview

To the best of our knowledge, no prior cemetery survey has been conducted at the abandoned cemetery on the Elmore Property. Electronic cemetery databases (www.findagrave.com, www.interment.net, and www.cemeterycensus.com) were checked for information on known and/or recorded cemeteries. None of these databases held information relevant to the abandoned cemetery. Other sources of information consulted during this investigation include historic maps and plats, Works Progress Administration (WPA) Cemetery Survey Reports, deeds, estate records, wills, military records, marriage bonds, Federal census data, birth and death certificates, and the NC Schedule of Mortality. A summary of the historic occupation of the Elmore Property that was developed using these resources follows.

Chain-of-Title Research

Table 1 outlines the chain of title relevant to the Elmore Property. Through recorded deeds it traces the ownership from the current property owner (DB 6270:831) back to 1885 when Russell Jackson Bennett and wife, Drucilla Catherine Olive Bennett, acquired the property (DB 87:762-763).

Ownership of the property prior to 1885 was traced back to 1817 by using a reference in a 1897 deed that states "formerly owned by Mark Suggs and conveyed from him to Joel Suggs and from Joel Suggs descended to his daughter Gilley Suggs Bennett and then to her heirs, one of whom is J. Z. Bennett..." (DB 142:98, Figure 2).

Research found that the property was inherited by Gilley Suggs (later Bennett) from her father, Joel Suggs, in 1818, when she was 11 years old. Joel Suggs acquired the land on 13 January 1817 (DB 1:161) from his brother, Mark Suggs, who had purchased it on 10 January 1816 from Robert Brown (DB 1:123).

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery
located at 2520 New Hill Olive Chapel Road, Buckhorn Township, Wake County, North Carolina
Wake County NC Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 0710747480

Table 1. Chain of Title for the Elmore Property.					
Grantor	Grantee	Date	Notes	Document	
William Larry Elmore	William Larry Elmore and wife, Deborah M. Elmore	1994	Lot 7 of the F.G. Tingen Land Map Book 1976, Page 514.	Wake County Deed Book 6270, Page 831	
Patricia Kay Carter (single)	William Larry Elmore and wife, Mary C. Opperman	1982	Lot 7 of the F.G. Tingen Land Map Book 1976, Page 514.	Wake County Deed Book 3014, Page 329	
Robert Lee Bishop	Patricia Kay Carter	1979	Lot 7 of the F.G. Tingen Land Map Book 1976, Page 514.	Wake County Deed Book 2721, Page 65	
James A Richardson and wife, Donna S. Richardson	Patricia Kay Carter and husband, Robert Lee Bishop	1978	Lot 7 of the F.G. Tingen Land Map Book 1976, Page 514.	Wake County Deed Book 2657, Page 628	
Freddie G. Tingen and wife, Willie Mae Tingen	James A. Richardson and wife, Donna S. Richardson	1977	Lot 7 of the F.G. Tingen Land Map Book 1976, Page 514.	Wake County Deed Book 2481, Page 506	
Seagroves Family Ownership – 1901 to 1964 – 63 years					
Virgie Seagroves, widow of Rexie Seagroves	Freddie G. Tingen and wife, Willie Mae Tingen	1964	Except for an area of 20 yards square for a family graveyard.	Wake County Deed Book 1583, Page 211	
A. F. (Albert Fonzy) Seagroves	Rexie Seagroves	1944		Wake County Will Book P, Page 234.	
Reynolds Family Ownership – 1900 to 1901 – 1 year					
J. J. Reynolds	A. F. (Albert Fonzy) Seagroves	1901		Wake County Deed Book 170, Page 345-347	
Bennett Family Ownership – 1824 marriage of John Haywood Bennett to Gilley Suggs to 1900 – 76 years					
Grantor	Grantee	Family Relationship	Date	Notes	Document
William Russell Bennett and wife, Mattie Victoria Olive Bennett	J. J. Reynolds		1900	Except for 30 yards square including the family burial ground.	Wake County Deed Book 157, Page 499
Joseph Zebulon Bennett and wife, Eugenia Adeline Yates Bennett	William Russell Bennett and wife, Mattie Victoria Olive Bennett	Uncle to nephew	1897	Except for 30 yards square including the family burial ground.	Wake County Deed Book 142, Page 98
Russell Jackson Bennett and wife, Drucilla Catherine Olive Bennett	Joseph Zebulon Bennett, and wife, Eugenia Adeline Yates Bennett	Brother to brother	1885		Wake County Deed Book 87:762-763
John Haywood Bennett, and wife, Gilley Suggs Bennett	Russell Jackson Bennett and wife, Drucilla Catherine Olive Bennett	Father to son	Abt. 1885		Possibly acquired after the death of John Haywood Bennett in August 1885.
Suggs Family Ownership – 1816 to 1824 marriage of J. H. Bennett to Gilley Suggs – 8 years					
Joel Suggs	Gilley Suggs	Father to daughter	1818		Wake County Will and Estate Papers
Mark Suggs	Joel Suggs	Brother to brother	1817		Wake County Deed Book 1, Page 161
Robert Brown	Mark Suggs		1816		Wake County Deed Book 1, Page 123

The earliest reference to a cemetery on the Elmore Property is the 1897 deed, referred to above, when Joseph Z. Bennett and wife, Eugenia A. Bennett, conveyed the property to W. R. Bennett and wife, M. V. Bennett (DB 142:98). This land conveyance includes clauses for three exceptions that are (1) 11 acres conveyed to Robert Brown on the west side in a nearly triangle shape area, (2) 15 acres in the northeast corner conveyed by J. Z. Bennett to R. J. Bennett, and (3) 30 yards square including the family burial ground (Figure 2). The wording of "family burial ground" in the third exception indicates that some of the burials in the cemetery may be for the Joseph Z. and Eugenia A. Bennett family.

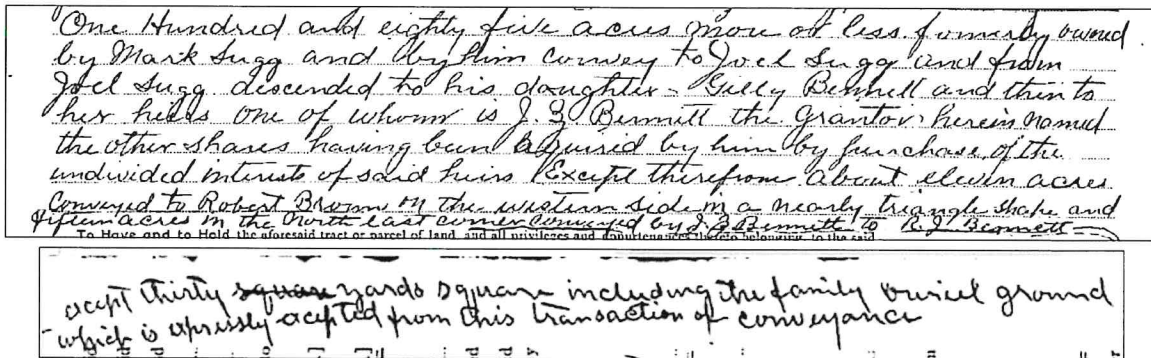


Figure 2. Excerpts from the J. Z. Bennett and wife, Eugenia A. Bennett, to William Russell Bennett land conveyance in 1897 (DB 142:98). Differences in the handwriting are because the "except thirty yards square" reference was hand written in the right-hand margin.

Reference to a cemetery on the property also appears in the 1900 land conveyance from W. R. Bennett and wife, M. V. Bennett, to J. J. Reynolds (DB 157:499). This deed also excepts "thirty yards square including the family burial ground" (Figure 3).

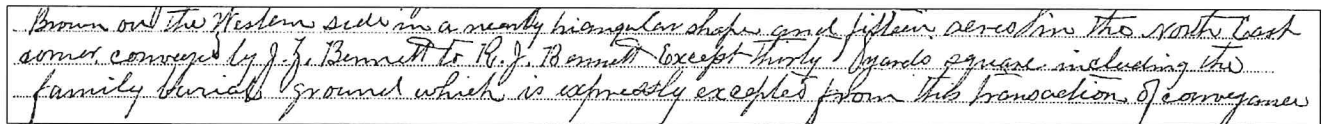


Figure 3. Excerpt of the Bennett to Reynolds land conveyance in 1900 (DB 157:499).

The last reference to a cemetery on the property is in the 1964 deed from Virgie Seagroves, widow of Rexie Seagroves, to Freddie G. Tinggen and wife, Willie Mae Tinggen (DB 1583:211). This deed also includes a clause that excepts an area "for a family graveyard." However, in 1964 this area is identified as 20 yards square, which is 10 yards narrower in each direction than the size stated in 1897 and 1900 deeds (Figure 4).

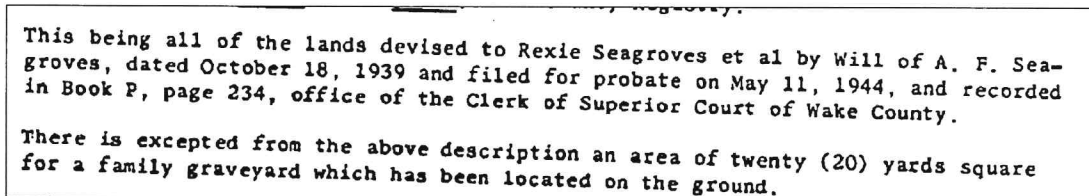


Figure 4. Excerpt of the Seagroves to Tinggen land conveyance in 1964 (DB 1583:211).

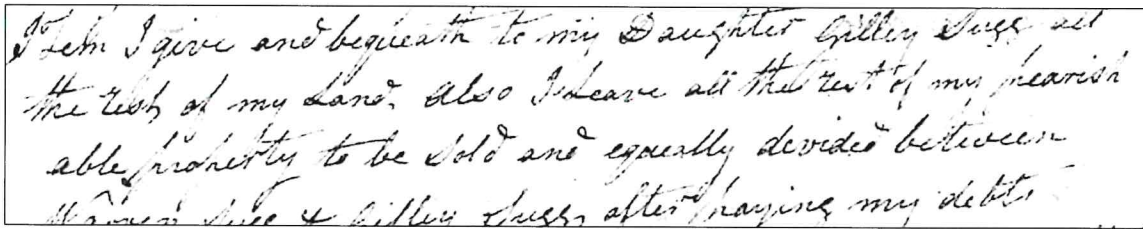
The graveyard references from 1897, 1900, and 1964 may be referring to the abandoned cemetery on the Elmore Property; however, there is no documentation of this cemetery being historically known as the "Suggs" or "Bennett" graveyard.

Genealogical Research

The following is summarized genealogical research relevant to the Bennett and Suggs family connected with the Elmore Property.

Bennett Family

As mentioned previously, in February 1818, 11-year-old Gilley Suggs inherited the property from her father, Joel Suggs (Figure 5).



The image shows a handwritten excerpt from a will, written in cursive. The text reads: "I do hereby give and bequeath to my Daughter Gilley Suggs all the 1/4 of my land. Also I leave all the rest of my personal and real property to be sold and equally divided between my son Joel & Gilley Suggs after paying my debts."

Figure 5. Excerpt from *Wills and Estate Papers (Wake County), 1663-1978*; Author: North Carolina. Division of Archives and History; Probate Place: Wake, North Carolina Original Wills, Stephenson, Cora E - Watkins, Bettie, page 417.

In December 1824, when she was 17 years old, she married John Haywood Bennett (North Carolina Marriage Records). They lived on, raised a family of four sons, and farmed the property. Gilley Suggs Bennett died in 1835; she was 27 years old. In August 1885, widower John Bennett died. The property may have been inherited by their youngest son, Russell Jackson Bennett, who soon after (December 1885) conveyed the family property to his brother Joseph Zebulon Bennett and his wife, Eugenia Bennett (DB 87:762-763). They held the property for about 12 years and then conveyed it in 1897 to their nephew, William R. Bennett (son of Russell Jackson) and his wife, Mattie V. Bennett (DB 142:98). This is the earliest deed that contains the reference that excepts the conveyance of the family burial ground.

From the deed references, it seems very likely that the abandoned cemetery on the Elmore Property is associated with the Bennett family. Tracing the Bennett family after John Haywood Bennett married Gilley Suggs in 1824 found that she died in 1835 and he died 50 years later in 1885. Their burial location is unknown through documents; however, it is very likely that they are buried in the abandoned cemetery on the Elmore Property.

Between 1826 and 1834, John Haywood and Gilley Suggs Bennett had four sons: Henry M., William Haywood, Joseph Zebulon, and Russell Jackson. A search for information about these children was conducted to look for evidence that would indicate that they may have been buried in the family cemetery.

Research found the following genealogical information about their four sons: Henry M. Bennett, William Haywood Bennett, Joseph Zebulon Bennett, and Russell Jackson Bennett.

1. Henry M. Bennett

Henry M. Bennett and his wife, Sarah B. Hunter, married in 1854 and had two children (Virginia and Walter) between 1856 and 1866.

Henry M. Bennett died in 1875 and is buried in the Holly Springs Cemetery
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24562719>).

Sarah B. Hunter Bennett died in 1890 and is buried in the Holly Springs Cemetery
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24562736>).

Their daughter, Virginia H. Bennett Nichols, died in 1941 and is buried in the Holly Springs Cemetery (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24596220>).

Their son, Walter Bennett, died in 1954 and is buried in Lanesboro Cemetery, Pennsylvania
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/97462133>).

2. William Haywood Bennett

William Haywood Bennett and his wife, Mariah Catherine Suggs, married in 1856 and had five children (John Dawson, Olivia, Archibald Houston, Joel Braxton, and Odis Edgar) between 1857 and 1873.

William Haywood Bennett died in 1903; no death certificate has been located for him. It is possible that he is buried in the abandoned family cemetery on the Elmore Property.

His wife, Mariah Catherine Suggs Bennett, died in 1916 (13 years after her husband) and is reported as being buried in the Suggs graveyard near New Hill (North Carolina State Archives; Raleigh, North Carolina; North Carolina Death Certificates; District 92-8029).

A summary of burial information for their five children follows.

John Dawson Bennett (1857-1900) is buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Durham
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43415592>).

Olivia Bennett (1860-1922) never married and according to her death certificate is buried in the Suggs graveyard near New Hill (North Carolina State Archives; Raleigh, North Carolina; North Carolina Death Certificates; District 92-8029).

Archibald Houston Bennett (1863-1930) is buried in Shady Grove Cemetery in New Hill
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96343020/a-h-bennett>).

Joel Braxton Bennett (1866-1872) died when he was six years old. No death certificate has been located for him; it is possible that he is buried in the abandoned family cemetery on the Elmore Property.

Odis Edgar Brennett (1873-1882) died when he was eight years old. No death certificate has been located for him; it is possible that he is buried in the abandoned cemetery on the Elmore Property.

3. Joseph Zebulon Bennett

Joseph Zebulon Bennett and his wife, Eugenia Adline Yates, married in 1863 and had five children (Octavia; Mary B., also known as "Mollie," which is a traditional oet-name for Mary or Margaret; Cary Dexter; Joseph Allen, also known by his nickname "Allie"; and Laeuna Adeline) between 1864 and 1883. They acquired the property from Russell Jackson Bennett, Joseph Zebulon Bennett's brother, in 1885 (DB 87:762-763).

Joseph Zebulon Bennett (1831-1906). No information about his death has been located. It is possible that he was buried in the family cemetery on the Elmore Property.

His wife, Eugenia Adline Yates Bennett (1845-1926) died 20 years later and was buried at Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery in Harnett County (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/30059643/eugenia-adeline-bennett>).

Information about their five children indicates that none are buried in the family cemetery (see summary below).

Octavia Bennett Woodward (1864-1891) died while the Bennett family owned the property. She was 26 years old and was buried in the Sewell Howell Cemetery in Cary (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/118705732>).

Mary B. (also known as Mollie) Bennett Wicker (1867-1962) is buried in Harnett Memorial Park in Lillington (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57393410/mollie-wicker>).

Carey Dexter Bennett (1968-1962) is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/93494362/carey-dexter-bennett>).

Joseph Allen (also known as Allie) Bennett (1870-1949) is buried in Piney Plains Christian Church Cemetery in Cary (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57147960/joseph-allie-bennett>).

Laeuna Adeline Bennett Wilson (1883-1962) is buried in Harnett Memorial Park in Lillington (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31531139/laeuna-adeline-wilson>).

4. Russell Jackson Bennett

Russell Jackson Bennett and his wife, Drucilla Catherine Olive, married in 1862. They acquired the property in 1885 after the death of John Haywood Bennett (Russell Jackson Bennett's father). No deed book or will has been located to document this conveyance.

Drucilla Bennett died in 1909 and Russell Jackson Bennett died in 1911. Their burial location is unknown. However, the death dates closely follow 1900, which is when the property left the Bennett family, so it is possible that they may have been buried in the family cemetery on the Elmore Property.

They had four children between 1863 and 1880. Silas Jackson (1863-1937), William Russell (1864-1919), Mary Alice (1880-1951), and Hettie (1875-1953). The death dates for these individuals

occurred 37-53 years after the property left the Bennett family. It seems unlikely that they are buried in the abandoned cemetery on the Elmore Property.

Suggs Family

The two references to the "Suggs graveyard near New Hill" that appear in the William Haywood Bennett family geneology (see above) suggest that the abandoned cemetery on the Elmore Property may predate the Bennett family acquisition of the property. The death certificates for Mariah Catherine Suggs Bennett (d. 1916) and Olivia Bennett (d. 1922) indicate that they were buried in the Suggs graveyard near New Hill (North Carolina State Archives; Raleigh, North Carolina; North Carolina Death Certificates; District 92-8029).

It is known that Gilley Suggs inherited the property in 1818 from her father, Joel Suggs (1781-1818). He acquired it from his brother Mark Suggs (d. 1823), who owned it for less than a year in 1817 (DB 1:161). There is no information about the death of Joel Suggs. His wife, Sarah Massey (1777-1865), who died 47 years after her husband, is buried in Old Mount Olivet Cemetery in Randolph County (<http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/rand/cem060.htm>).

The Suggs family was established in Wake County by the 1750s (Murray 1983:26). Gilley Suggs' paternal grandfather, William Taylor Suggs, was born in Wake County around 1740; he married Elizabeth Simms in 1780, and they had 11 children. William Taylor Suggs died in 1819; no information has been located about his burial. His wife, Elizabeth Simms Suggs, died in 1825; no information has been located about her burial.

Field Investigation

The survey of the abandoned cemetery on the Elmore Property was conducted on 17 May 2018 by Deborah Joy, Michael Davey, and Amanda Finnen of Legacy Research.

Vegetation covered much of the cemetery area and obscured gravemarkers. Leaf and some pine litter covered the ground surfaces and inhibited detection of sunken grave shafts and identifying gravemarkers. No maintenance of the cemetery was observed.

Fieldwork consisted of identifying and recording marked and unmarked graves within the boundaries of the cemetery. After clearing some vegetation, the investigation consisted of a visual surface inspection and subsurface (probing) investigations to determine the cemetery boundaries based on grave distribution and the extent of the cemetery vegetation.

The visual surface inspection for graves consisted of identifying possible grave locations based on the presence of a grave marker (an upright or flat stone or wooden marker, typically oblong or rectangular shaped) or a grave shaft (a rectangular-shaped sunken area that occurred after the soil settled in the burial shaft).

Subsurface inspection for graves consisted of soil density testing, also known as soil probing. This method employs a 5/8th-inch metal or fiberglass T-bar that is pressed into the ground to gauge soil resistance. Disturbed soils are typically less likely to inhibit probing and are generally less compact, while

undisturbed soils are more compact and provide more resistance. The entire wooded area around the marked graves was tested. No evidence of past ground disturbance, including the two marked graves, was identified through probing.

Because probing did not locate areas of soil disturbance that would indicate a possible grave, the only mapped graves were the two headstones. The location of the two marked burials were recorded with a Nikon Total Station and the perimeter of the identified burial area was recorded with a Trimble GPS. Data collected with the total station is not survey-grade and is intended to be used for planning purposes only.

While the field methods used are a reasonable and prudent effort and meet or exceed both the present professional standards for cemetery studies, as well as the expected field methodologies of the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, they are limited in scope. The only method to guarantee locating every burial in a cemetery requires complete excavation, which is beyond the scope of the present survey.

The field investigation resulted in identifying two (2) marked graves within the defined cemetery boundaries (Figure 6 and Figure 7). The cemetery area is distinctly recognizable by the presence of vegetation that differs from vegetation in the adjacent woodland, although traditional cemetery vegetation, such as flowering shrubs (roses, azaleas, or forsythia) and other vegetation (yucca, English ivy, or periwinkle) were absent from the cemetery.

Within the cemetery are holly trees, privet hedge, cedar trees, and vines (Figure 8) and the ground was thickly covered with pine needles, pine cones, leaf litter, and tree branches (Figure 9). Based on the distinct vegetation, it is estimated that the cemetery covers an area that is about 35 ft north-south by 45 ft east-west.

The two burials in the cemetery are oriented east-west along linear north-south alignment and are spaced about 15 ft apart. There was no evidence of a footstone at either grave. The gravemarkers are tablet form, made from marble, and have eroded surfaces. There was no discernable inscription seen on either grave marker (Figure 10 and Figure 11).

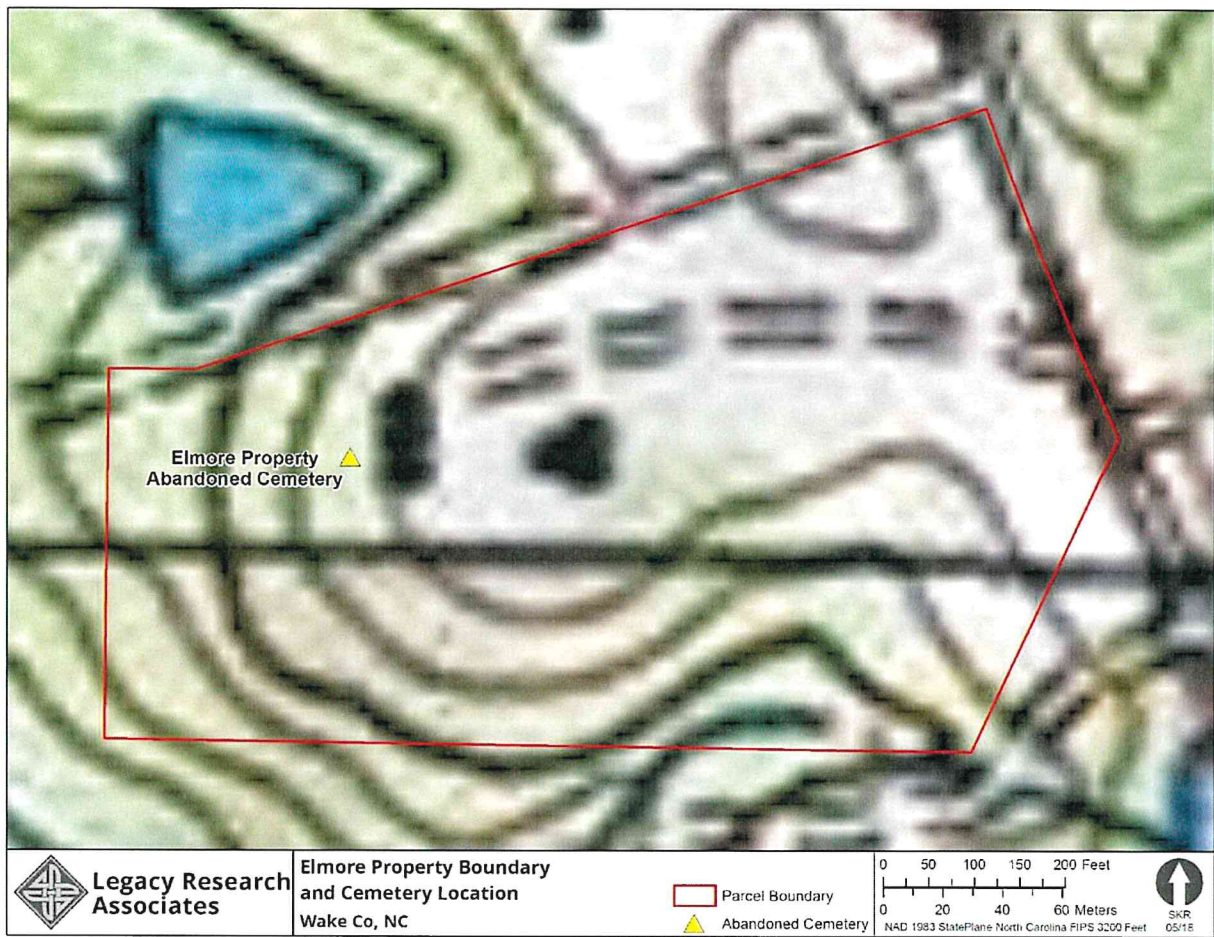


Figure 6. Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery location unidentified on the 2009 New Hill, NC, USGS topographic quadrangle map.

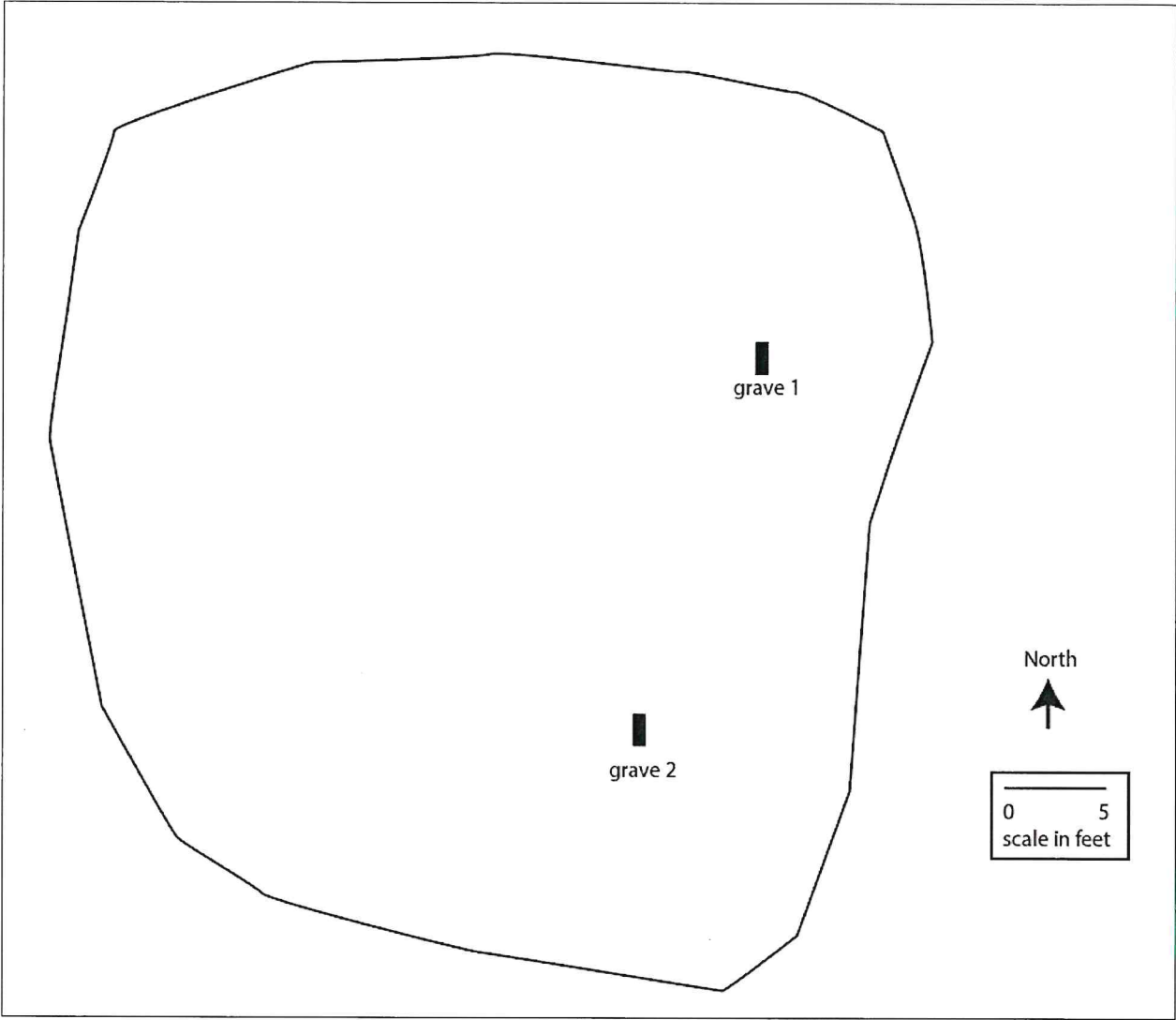


Figure 7. Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery, site plan, showing approximate boundary and the location of the two gravestones.



Figure 8. Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery, view north.



Figure 9. Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery showing the two headstones, view northeast.



Figure 10. Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery Grave 1, view east.



Figure 11. Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery Grave 2, view southeast.

Project Results and Recommendations

The focus of the investigation was to conduct a survey of the cemetery area to provide information for planning purposes.

The research work traced the ownership of the property to 1816 when Robert Brown conveyed the land to Mark Suggs (DB 1:123). The property remained in the Suggs family until Gilley Suggs married John Haywood Bennett in 1824, from that date the property was owned by the Bennett family for 76 years until William Russell Bennett and his wife, Mattie Victoria Olive Bennett, sold the land, except for the family burial ground, to J. J. Reynolds (DB 157:499). Within a year J. J. Reynolds sold the land to A. F. Seagroves (DB 170:345-347) and the property remained in the Seagroves family for 63 years. In 1964, Virgie Seagroves, widow of Rexie Seagroves, sold the land to Freddie G. Tingen, and his wife, Willie Mae Tingen (DB 1583:211). This deed had an exception for a family graveyard. In 1977, Freddie G. Tingen, and his wife, Willie Mae Tingen, conveyed the property, identified as Lot 7 of the F. G. Tingen Land, to James A. Richardson and wife, Donna S. Richardson (DB 2481:506). The property changed hands four times after 1977 and is currently owned by William Larry Elmore and wife, Deborah M. Elmore (DB 6270:831).

Genealogical research found that the burial area is more than likely associated with the Suggs (1816-1824) and Bennett family (1824-1900). There are only two graves that were identified during the survey; however, research suggests that at least 13 additional graves may be present (see Table 2).

	Name	Year of Death	Explanation
1	Joel Suggs, father of Gilley Suggs Bennett	1818	Owned the property at the time of his death.
2	William Taylor Suggs	1819	Property owned by daughter Gilley Suggs (unmarried) at the time of his death.
3	Elizabeth Simms Suggs, wife of William Taylor Suggs	1825	Property owned by daughter Gilley Suggs Bennett and son-in-law John Haywood Bennett at the time of her death.
4	Gilley Suggs Bennett	1835	Owned the property at the time of her death.
5	Joel Braxton Bennett, son of William Haywood Bennett and Mariah Catherine Suggs Bennett	1872	Property owned by his parents at the time of his death.
6	Odis Edgar Bennett, son of William Haywood Bennett and Mariah Catherine Suggs Bennett	1882	Property owned by his parents at the time of his death.
7	John Haywood Bennett, husband of Gilley Suggs Bennett	1885	Owned the property at the time of his death.
8	William Haywood Bennett	1903	Property owned by the Seagroves family for 2 years at the time of his death. The exception for a family graveyard appears in the chain-of-title from 1987 to 1964.
9	Joseph Zebulon Bennett	1906	Property owned by the Seagroves family for 5 years at the time of his death. The exception for a family graveyard appears in the chain-of-title from 1987 to 1964.
10	Drucilla Catherine Olive, wife of Russell Jackson Bennett	1909	Property owned by the Seagroves family for 8 years at the time of her death. The exception for a family graveyard appears in the chain-of-title from 1987 to 1964.
11	Russell Jackson Bennett	1911	Property owned by the Seagroves family for 10 years at the time of his death. The exception for a family graveyard appears in the chain-of-title from 1987 to 1964.
12	Mariah Catherine Suggs Bennett, wife of William Haywood Bennett	1916	Death Certificate states burial at the Suggs graveyard in New Hill. Property owned by the Seagroves family for 15 years at the time of her death. The exception for a family graveyard appears in the chain-of-title from 1987 to 1964.
13	Olivia Bennett, daughter of William Haywood Bennett and Mariah Catherine Suggs Bennett	1922	Death Certificate states burial at the Suggs graveyard in New Hill. Property owned by the Seagroves family for 21 years at the time of her death.

Significance Evaluation

Four general significance criteria are used to determine eligibility of a property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Properties may be considered eligible for inclusion if they:

- a) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- b) are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- c) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; or
- d) have yielded or may be likely to yield information important to our understanding of prehistory or history.

The abandoned cemetery on the Elmore Property is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion a, as it is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. There is no suggestion that it is associated with the lives of persons significant to our past; therefore, Criterion b does not apply. Criterion c evaluation finds that this cemetery does not represent the work of a master and it does not have high artistic values, nor does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, namely the Southern Folk Cemetery. Under Criterion d, there is a small likelihood for bone preservation sufficient for physical analysis; therefore, the cemetery is unlikely to yield information important to our understanding of the history or prehistory of the region.

Potential Adverse Effects of Pending Development on the Abandoned Cemetery

The Elmore Property is planned for future development, which could have an adverse effect on the abandoned cemetery if it were to be preserved on site. Possible adverse effects to the cemetery, if left in place, would be vandalism, neglect, and possibly inadvertent destruction by nearby construction activities.

Concerns about maintaining perpetual care of the cemetery, which would become the responsibility of a homeowner's association, led to the decision to relocate the remains within these graves to Oakwood Cemetery, as the best option for protection.

A perpetual care cemetery, such as Oakwood, would be responsible for lawn care and the upkeep of roads, paths, and signage. A perpetual care cemetery will document the new location of the cemetery, keep records relevant to the relocation, and provide access to the burials for descendants.

Summary of Due-Diligence Efforts to Notify Next-of-Kin

A legal notice was published in the *Raleigh News & Observer* on May 21 and 28 and June 4 and 11, 2018 (Figure 12). This notification was to comply with state law and to attempt to identify any possible next of kin or persons with interest in, or knowledge about, graves on this property. No response to the legal notification has been received.

The lack of inscribed tombstones for the graves precluded any direct genealogical research. However, deed research indicated that it was very likely that the graves might be associated with the Bennett family and possibly the Suggs family (see Table 1).

Genealogical research on John and Gilley Bennett and their descendants located a Bennett-family researcher, William R. Bennett. Mr. Bennett responded on June 10, 2018, that he had no information about the cemetery, but provided contact information for other Bennett family members (third cousins) who might have historical information related to the New Hill, Buckhorn settlement. On June 11, 2018, Legacy emailed Jeff Bennett and Jay Bennett. No response was received from Jeff Bennett. A response from Jay Bennett was received on June 14, 2018. He indicated that he would check his records about a cemetery and that he knew the house and property had been owned by his great-great-great grandfather. Legacy followed up with Jay Bennett on June 18, 2018. There has been no response.

It is not known if the existing house is on the site of or has been built around the house owned by Jeff Bennett's great-great-great grandfather.

Proposed Cemetery Relocation Site

The two marked graves and an undetermined number of unmarked graves, roughly estimated to be about 13, associated with the abandoned cemetery on the Elmore Property will be relocated to Oakwood Cemetery at 701 Oakwood Avenue in Raleigh where they will receive perpetual care.

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Elmore Property Abandoned Cemetery located at 2520 New Hill Olive Chapel Road, Buckhorn Township, Wake County, North Carolina
Wake County NC Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 0710747480



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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Ad Number	Identification	PO	Cols	Lines
322391	0003673938	removal/ reinterment (2520 New Hill Olive Chapel Hill Road)		1	20

Attention:

LEGACY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES
125 WEST WOODRIDGE DRIVE
DURHAM, NC 27707

LEGAL NOTICE
In the matter of the intention for the removal and reinterment of approximately two marked graves located in a wooded area of 2520 New Hill Olive Chapel Road in Buckhorn Township, Wake County (PIN 0710747480). Previous land owner surnames are Lindsey, Scoones, Bennett, and Surges.
Anyone having information about these graves or the next of kin please contact Deborah Joy at 919-215-6469 or djoy@legacy-research.com

Deborah Joy
Legacy Research Associates
125 West Woodridge Drive
Durham, NC 27707

N&O: May 21, 28; June 4, 11, 2018

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF WAKE

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of Johnston County, North Carolina, duly commissioned and authorized to administer oaths, affirmations, etc., personally appeared BETSY WOMBLE, who being duly sworn or affirmed, according to law, doth depose and say that he or she is Accounts Receivable Specialist of the News & Observer Publishing Company, a corporation organized and doing business under the Laws of the State of North Carolina, and publishing a newspaper known as The News & Observer, Wake County and State aforesaid, the said newspaper in which such notice, paper, document, or legal advertisement was published was, at the time of each and every such publication, a newspaper meeting all of the requirements and qualifications of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and was a qualified newspaper within the meaning of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and that as such he or she makes this affidavit; and is familiar with the books, files and business of said corporation and by reference to the files of said publication the attached advertisement for LEGACY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES was inserted in the aforesaid newspaper on dates as follows:

4 Insertion(s)

Published On:

May 21, 2018, May 28, 2018, June 04, 2018, June 11, 2018

Betsy Womble

BETSY WOMBLE, Accounts Receivable Specialist

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of June, 2018

My Commission Expires: 6/8/2021

[Signature]
Notary Signature

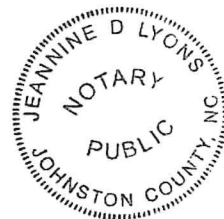


Figure 12. Affidavit of Publication.

References Cited

Clauser, John W. Jr.

1984 "The Southern Folk Cemetery in Piedmont North Carolina." North Carolina Historic Preservation Office Newsletter.

Cemetery Census

Suggs, Sarah Massey

1865 Old Mount Olivet Cemetery in Randolph County

<http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/rand/cem060.htm>.

Chicora Foundation

2017 Grave Matters: The Preservation of African-American Cemeteries.

<https://www.sciway.net/hist/chicora/gravematters.html>.

Find-A-Grave

Bennett, Archibald Houston

1930 Shady Grove Cemetery, New Hill <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96343020/a-h-bennett>.

Bennett, Carey Dexter

1962 Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/93494362/carey-dexter-bennett>.

Bennett, Eugenia Adline Yates

1926 Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery in Harnett County
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/30059643/eugenia-adeline-bennett>).

Bennett, Henry M.

1875 Holly Springs Cemetery <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24562719>.

Bennett, John Dawson

1900 Maplewood Cemetery Durham <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43415592>.

Bennett, Joseph Allen (Allie)

1949 Piney Plains Christian Church Cemetery in Cary
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57147960/joseph-allie-bennett>.

Bennett, Walter

1954 Lanesboro Cemetery, Pennsylvania <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/97462133>.

Hunter, Sarah B. Bennett

1890 Holly Springs Cemetery <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24562736>.

Nichols, Virginia H. Bennett

1941 Holly Springs Cemetery <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24596220>.

Wicker, Mary B. (Mollie) Bennett

1962 Harnett Memorial Park in Lillington

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57393410/mollie-wicker>.

Wilson, Laeuna Adeline Bennett

1962 Harnett Memorial Park in Lillington

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31531139/laeuna-adeline-wilson>.

Woodward, Octavia Bennett

1891 Sewell Howell Cemetery in Cary <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/118705732>.

Jordan, Terry G.

1982 *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Murray, Elizabeth Reid

1983 *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*. Capital County Publishing Company, Raleigh, NC.

North Carolina State Archives; Raleigh, North Carolina; North Carolina Death Certificates; District 92-8029

Bennett, Mariah Catherine Suggs

1916 Suggs Graveyard in New Hill.

Bennett, Olivia

1922 Suggs Graveyard in New Hill.

United States Work Projects Administration

1937 Historic Records Survey of North Carolina, Wake County Cemetery Survey records,
<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p15012coll1/id/23887>.

Wake County Register of Deeds

1816 Robert Brown to Mark Suggs (DB 1:123).

1817 Mark Suggs to Joel Suggs (DB 1:161).

1885 Russell Jackson Bennett and wife, Drucilla Catherine Olive Bennett, to Joseph Zebulon Bennett and wife, Eugenia Adeline Yates Bennett (DB 87:762-763).

1897 Joseph Zebulon Bennett and wife, Eugenia Adeline Yates Bennett, to William Russell Bennett and wife, Mattie Victoria Olive Bennett (DB 142:98).

1900 William Russell Bennett and wife, Mattie Victoria Olive Bennett, to J. J. Reynold (DB 157:499).

1901 J. J. Reynolds to A. F. Seagroves (DB 170:345-347).

1944 A. F. Seagroves to Rexie Seagroves (WB P:234).

1964 Virgie Seagroves, widow of Rexie Seagroves, to Freddie G. Tingen and wife, Willie Mae Tingen (DB 1583:211).

1977 Freddie G. Tingen and wife, Willie Mae Tingen, to James A. Richardson and wife, Donna S. Richardson (DB 2481:506).

1978 James A. Richardson and wife, Donna S. Richardson, to Patricia Kay Carter and husband, Robert Lee Bishop (DB 2657:628).

1979 Robert Lee Bishop to Patricia Kay Carter (DB 2721:65).

1982 Patricia Kay Carter (single) to William Larry Elmore and wife, Mary C. Opperman (DB 3014:329).

1994 William Larry Elmore to William Larry Elmore and wife, Deborah M. Elmore (DB 6270:831).