



## GRAVE REMOVAL PETITION

Submit required documentation to:

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.

File #  
Fee  
Amt Paid  
Check #  
Rec'd Date  
Rec'd By

### Petitioner

Name Deborah Joy, Legacy Research Associates on behalf of Silvermist Investments LLC

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

Address 125 West Woodridge Drive

City Durham State NC Zip Code 27707

### Subject Property Address and Parcel Identification Number (PIN):

2726 Derby Glen Way PIN 1832108757

**Reason for Petition:** Grave removal to allow for residential development and to provide better protection of the graves by relocating them to a cemetery where perpetual care will be provided.

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: August 21, 2019

### Property Owner

Name Joe Cebina, Director of Development and Authorized Owner Representative, Silvermist Investments LLC

Telephone Number 919-247-1932 E-Mail jcebina@robuckhomes.com

Address PO Box 17101

City Raleigh State NC Zip Code 27619

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: [Signature] Date: August 21, 2019

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Griffin Cemetery (31WA1955\*\*)  
2726 Derby Glen Way, Wake Forest, New Light Township, Wake County, NC  
Wake County NC Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 1832108757

Prepared for  
Silvermist Investments LLC  
6131 Falls of the Neuse Road  
Suite 200  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Prepared by  
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Durham, NC 27707

10 September 2019

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## Introduction

This technical report details the research and archaeological exploration of an abandoned cemetery, known as the "Griffin Cemetery," that is located on 0.05 acres of land at 2726 Derby Glen Way, Wake Forest, New Light Township, NC (Figure 1). The cemetery is on land identified as Wake County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 1832108757.

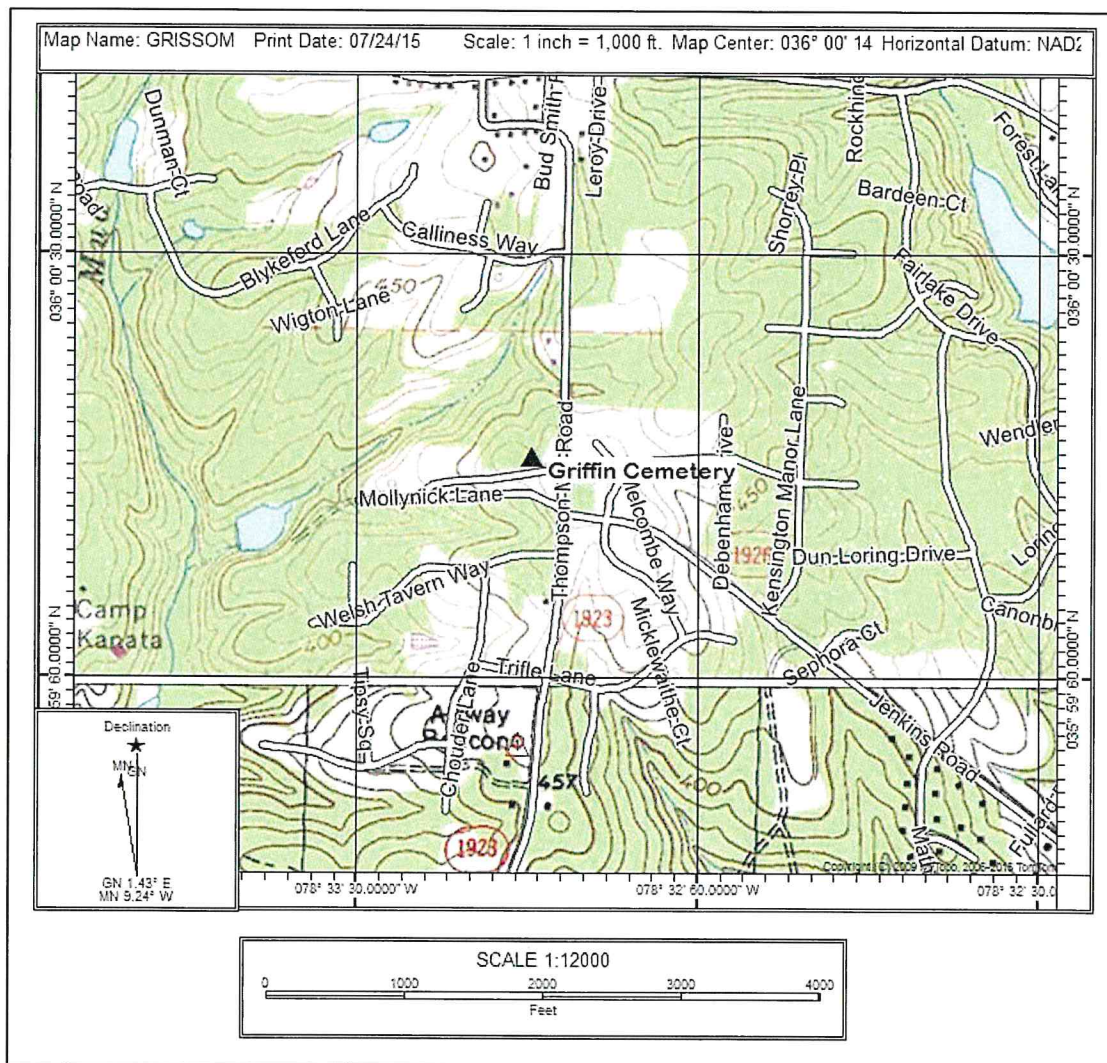


Figure 1. Location of Griffin Cemetery on the Grissom, NC (1978, rev. 1987) USGS 7.5" quadrangle map.

The 0.05-acre cemetery is currently owned by Silvermist Investments LLC who acquired the property in 2016 (Wake County Deed Book [DB] 16283:1398). In 2014, this parcel was divided from land owned by Kenneth Gordon Welsh, and his wife, Peggy Boone Welsh (DB 15585:352). The cemetery straddles Lots 2 and 3 of the Avalyn Subdivision (Figure 2).

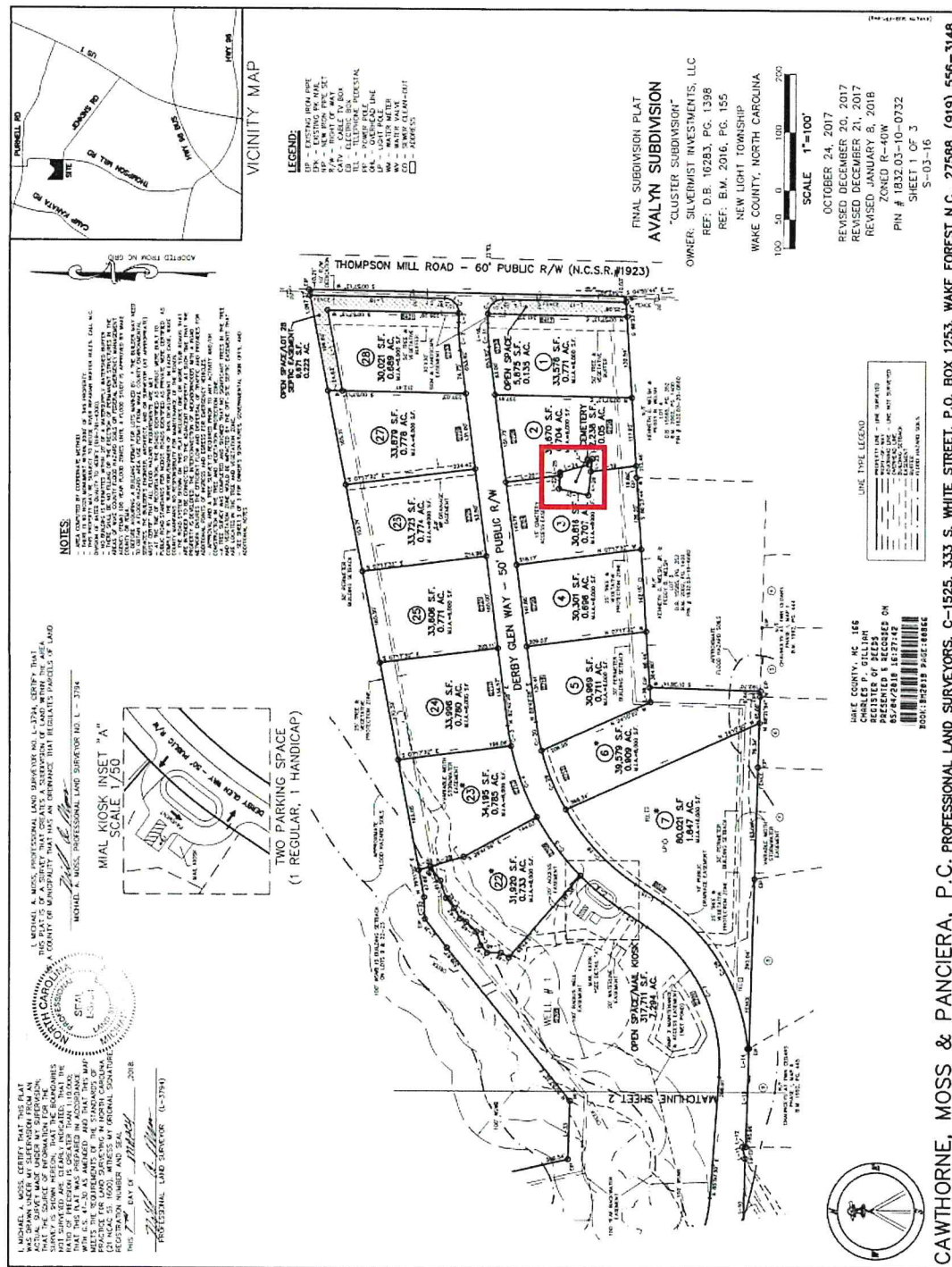


Figure 2. Location of Griffin Cemetery on the Avalyn Subdivision Plat (Wake County Map Book 2018:866). Note: The Griffin Cemetery (boxed in red) straddles Lots 2 and 3.



### **Scope of Work**

The scope of work for this Project included (1) conducting research that might provide information about the age of the cemetery and identify who may have been buried there, and (2) conducting archaeological field investigations to identify and map known and possible burials. The purpose of the investigation was to provide historical and archaeological documentation of the Griffin Cemetery for planning purposes.

### **Environmental Setting**

The Griffin Cemetery is located on a low-rising wooded ridgetop that is bound on the south by Derby Glen Way. Thompson Mill Road (SR 1923) lies about 230 ft to the east. An unnamed tributary of Mud Branch lies about 1,000 ft northwest of the cemetery.

Vegetation within the cemetery includes a few trees, primarily pine and cedar. At the time of the survey in 2015, there was one large dead oak tree along the eastern edge of the cemetery. There was no evidence of periwinkle groundcover or other traditional cemetery vegetation, such as flowering shrubs (e.g., roses, azaleas, or forsythia) or other vegetation often found in cemeteries, such as yucca or English ivy. A dense layer of pine straw and dead tree branches covered the cemetery area prior to the investigation.

### **Cultural Context for Southern Cemeteries**

To provide context for understanding the Griffin Cemetery, the following summary information about cemeteries has been extracted and summarized from *Sticks & Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers* (Little 1998), *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy* (Jordan 1982), and "The Southern Folk Cemetery in Piedmont North Carolina" (Clauser 1984).

Some Southern cemetery traditions include wife-to-the-left burials, bordered family plots, and feet-to-the-east interments. Husband-to-the-right (or wife-to-the-left) is a traditional position of married couples in the Southern Folk Cemetery. This tradition derived 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.

The Southern Folk Cemetery was introduced in the North Carolina Piedmont region 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 materials (not commercially produced), certain species of vegetation, grave shelters, and devotion to God and/or family with graveyard workdays and monument dedications.

There are three distinct models of the Southern Folk Cemetery that have progressed over time: Pioneer, Transitional, and Modern. A description of these three types follows.

#### ***Pioneer Model***

The Pioneer Model is the oldest type of the Southern Folk Cemetery and is found in remote rural areas. The Pioneer Model cemetery is small, and burials were not limited to the immediate family, as extended family ties that emerged when families intermarried were very important. Distinctive traits of the Pioneer Model cemetery are (1) that it was often located on a hilltop, (2) that periodically the cemetery area was scraped clean, and (3) that graves were laid out in an east-west direction, neatly aligned, and mounded with dirt to identify grave locations and to compensate for soil settling 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 and ancestors buried in the cemetery was a common practice of the community. The graveyard workday was an annual event, usually occurring in late summer or early fall, when the community gathered to respect the deceased. On workdays, grass was scraped, graves were mounded, gravemarkers were placed or replaced, decorations were placed, repairs were made, and trash was removed.

### ***Transitional Model***

The Transitional Model cemetery dates from the mid- to late-nineteenth century. This tradition continues today in some areas of the South. It is characterized by family plots; a combination of scraped plots and grassy areas; the absence of creative markings, decorations, or grave shelters; and the decline or lack of collectively gathering to honor and respect those interred. The Transitional Model also marked the decline of mounded graves and the increase of commercially produced gravemarkers or tombstones.

The Transitional Model cemetery introduced different varieties of vegetation, such as magnolia and crape myrtle trees. The cedar tree remained. Flowering shrubs, such as roses, azaleas, and forsythia were often planted. Other cemetery vegetation included yucca, English ivy, and periwinkle. Eventually, artificial flowers and commercially produced gravestones with epitaphs became prevalent.

### ***Modern Model***

After World War II, the South experienced a cultural change toward modernization that extended into burial customs, as evidenced by urban memorial gardens and perpetual-care mortuary complexes. Family cemeteries were rarely used. Some memorial gardens continued to exhibit aspects of the traditional Southern Folk Cemetery with bordered and sometimes scraped family burial plots. However, modernization included standardized and commercially produced markers, fewer epitaphs, and more artificial flowers.

## **Research Overview**

Deed research for the Project was conducted by tracing ownership of the 0.05-acre cemetery lot from the present day to the early-twentieth century (Table 1). The current property owner, Silvermist Investments LLC, acquired the land in 2016 from Kenneth Gordon Welsh, and wife, Peggy Boone Welsh (DB 16283:1398). The cemetery had been part of 25 acres of land that Kenneth and Peggy Welsh acquired in March 1981 from John W. Davis, Jr, and wife, Coralene R. Davis (DB 2908:759-760). The 1981 deed describes the property as being acquired from Minnie Belle Griffin Honeycutt et al. (descendants of Richard Nowell Griffin) in 1958 (DB 1332:90). The 1981 and 1958 deeds state that there was a "... reservation of the right to use a graveyard on the property by the family of Minnie Belle Honeycutt." Minnie Belle Griffin Honeycutt was the daughter of Richard Nowell Griffin. He died in 1929 and his burial is identified by the only inscribed gravemarker in the Griffin Cemetery.



Table 1. Chain of Title.				
Date	Grantor	Grantee	Wake County Deed Book: Page	Description
2 February 2016	Kenneth Gordon Welsh and wife, Peggy Boone Welsh	Silvermist Investments LLC	16283: 1398	0.05-acre cemetery
13 March 1981	John W. Davis, Jr. and wife, Coralene R. Davis	Kenneth Gordon Welsh and wife, Peggy Boone Welsh	2908: 759-760	25 acres with the right to use the graveyard
8 Sept 1958	Minnie Belle Griffin Honeycutt et al., descendants of Richard Nowell Griffin	John W. Davis, Jr. and wife, Coralene R. Davis	1332: 90	25 acres with the right to use the graveyard
After his death in 1929	Richard Nowell Griffin	Minnie Belle Griffin Honeycutt et al., descendants of Richard Nowell Griffin		

The chain of title from Richard Nowell Griffin to his descendants is not recorded in the Wake County Register of Deeds or Estate and Wills documents. It is likely that he acquired the property through his parents. His father, William Monroe Griffin Sr., died in 1856. The 1860 Federal population census reported William Monroe Griffin Sr.'s widow, Catherine Bunch Griffin, as head of household living with their son (Richard Nowell Griffin), daughter-in-law (Edna Elizabeth "Betty" or "Bettie" Pernell), and their 8-month-old son (James). The reference to head-of-household in the 1860 census indicates that Catherine Bunch Griffin was the property owner. She died in 1870 and it appears that following her death, her son Richard Nowell Griffin became the owner of his parent's property. There is no record of Richard Nowell Griffin's parents or his wife acquiring the property in the Wake County Register of Deeds or Estates and Wills.

### Research of Previously Recorded Cemetery Records

Background research at the North Carolina State Archives found that there has been no formal recording of the Griffin Cemetery. Research involved reviewing the 1937 Wake County Cemetery Survey (<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p15012coll1/id/23887>) and online cemetery inventories that include <http://www.interment.net/us/nc/wake.htm>, <http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/wake/index.htm> and <http://www.findagrave.com>. No record of the Griffin Cemetery was found while searching these online resources. Research conducted at the Olivia Rainey Local History Library in Raleigh found the "Griffin Cemetery" reported in the Wake County Cemetery Survey Listing by Township, volume IX, #2, Summer/Spring 1999, part 8, pages 89-96 as "... not all information has been completed."

### Genealogical Research

The Griffin Cemetery has one grave identified with an inscribed headstone. It is a military monument dedicated to Richard Nowell Griffin, who was the fourth son of William Monroe Griffin Sr. (1790-1856) and his wife, Catherine Bunch Griffin (1809-1870). The headstone is a Federal government-issued marker that was ordered by Richard Nowell Griffin's daughter, Mrs. C. J. Honeycutt (Minnie Belle Griffin, wife of Claud Jackson Honeycutt) on 17 October 1929. The application stated that he served as a Private in the North Carolina Infantry, Company I, 55<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Figure 3).



WAR DEPARTMENT  
O. Q. M. G. FORM NO. 623  
Approved Aug. 12, 1913  
Revised July 15, 1929

ORIGINAL  
APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE

(PLEASE MAKE OUT AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE)

NAME: GRIFFIN, RICHARD N. Rank: INFANTRY Company: I #55 G.S.A. Date of Death: JULY 24, 1929

Name of Cemetery: GRIFFIN FAMILY Located in or near: WAKE FOREST, N.C. I World War Veteran: [ ]

TO BE SHIPPED TO: MRS. C.J. HONEYCUTT WAKE FOREST, N.C. (Name of consignee) (live town, county, and state)

POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE: WAKE FOREST, WAKE CO., N.C., R. 1. OCT 19 1929

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Verified: AUG 2 1930 Ordered: FATE, GEORGE From: 7-1530190785 Shipped: [ ]

I hereby agree to accept the headstone at above destination, freight prepaid, and properly place same at decedent's grave.

This application is for the UNMARKED\* grave of a SOLDIER (G.S.A.). It is understood the stone will be furnished and delivered at the railroad station or steamboat landing above indicated, at Government expense, freight prepaid, and agreed it will be promptly removed and set up at private expense.

Mrs. C.J. Honeycutt, Applicant.

Date: Oct. 17, 1929

\*Stones must not be requested for any grave at which a private stone, monument, or other permanent marker is already erected or is to be erected.

Decedent was discharged as a prisoner of war at Point Lookout, Md. June 29, 1928

Figure 3. Application for Headstone – Richard Nowell Griffin (Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1941. Microfilm publication M1916, 134 rolls. ARC ID: 596118. Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92. National Archives at Washington, DC).

Research that included a search of 1800 to 1940 census records,<sup>1</sup> marriage and military records, and birth/death certificates was conducted to identify graves in the Griffin Cemetery. A description of the research follows.

#### **William Monroe Griffin Sr. (1790-1856) and Catherine Bunch Griffin (1809-1870) Family**

Federal population census data from 1850 reported that William Monroe Griffin Sr. and his wife, Catherine Bunch Griffin, had six sons (William Monroe Jr., Turner, Jesse Powell, Richard Nowell, John Y., and Samuel) and four daughters (Mary Ann, Eliza Catherine, Nancy, and Ailsey Dorcas). The 1850 census for this family also reported that Mary Griffin, age 74, was living with her son, William Monroe Griffin Sr. and his family.

The 1860 census reported the head of household as 51-year-old widow Catherine Bunch Griffin, living with her 18-year-old daughter (Nancy Griffin), her 8-year-old son (Manassas), her 27-year-old son (Richard Nowell Griffin), his 22-year-old wife (Etna Griffin), and their 8-month-old son (James). William Monroe Griffin Sr. and his mother, Mary Griffin, are not reported in the 1860 census.

William Monroe Griffin Sr. died on 27 November 1856 (*Semi-Weekly Standard* (Raleigh, North Carolina), December 10, 1856, p. 3). The newspaper reported that he was 66 years old, and

<sup>1</sup> There is a gap in the census information for 1890, because the census was destroyed by a fire in Washington DC in 1921 (<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1996/spring/1890-census-1.html>).

that he was a good and useful neighbor and an honest man. The Find-A-Grave website has his burial location reported as "unknown"

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/132477012/william-griffin>). However, it appears likely that he may have been buried in the Griffin Family cemetery on his property.

William Monroe Griffin Sr.'s mother, Mary Griffin, died sometime between the taking of the 1850 and 1860 census. No death certificate or newspaper announcement about her death has been located. It is very likely that she was buried in the Griffin Cemetery.

There was no information about the William Monroe Griffin Sr. and Catherine Bunch Griffin family in the 1870 Federal population census. However, the 1880 census reported 72-year-old Catherine Bunch Griffin living with her youngest son, Manassas, and his wife Mary Ann Wilder, in Franklin Township, Franklin County, NC. There is no 1890 Federal population census because the records were destroyed in a fire and the 1900 census has no record of her. Her son, Manassas died in 1890 and her daughter-in-law, Mary Ann Wilder Griffin, died in 1891. They are buried at Perry's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery in Franklinton, Franklin County, NC. No death certificate or burial information about Catherine Bunch Griffin has been located. However, it seems likely that she is buried in the Griffin Cemetery.

Based on information in the 1850 and 1860 Federal population census, William Monroe Griffin Sr. and Catherine Bunch Griffin had 11 children. This included seven sons (William Monroe Jr., Turner, Jesse Powell, Richard Nowell, John Y., Samuel, and Manassah, who was born in 1851 and was only recorded in the 1860 census) and four daughters (Mary Ann, Eliza Catherine, Nancy, and Ailsey Dorcas). A summary of their genealogical information follows.

1. William Monroe Griffin Jr. (1826-after 1914) married Mary Ann O'Neal (1826-1914) in 1850. Census data from 1850 to 1880 indicates that they had no children. Mary Ann O'Neal Griffin's death certificate states that she was buried in the "old family graveyard" in Wake County (Figure 4). It is not clear what "old family graveyard" is being referred to. However, it might refer to the Griffin Cemetery. No death certificate has been found for William Monroe Griffin Jr. His wife's death certificate (1914) indicates that at the time of her death she was married. This suggests that William Monroe Griffin Jr. died after 1914. No records of his death or burial have been located. It is possible that William Monroe Griffin Jr. and his wife, Mary Ann O'Neal Griffin, may be buried in the Griffin Cemetery.
2. Turner Griffin was born in 1827. He is listed in the 1850 Federal population census as a 23-year-old shoemaker, but there is no census record or military record of him after that date. Also, no marriage or death certificate or burial location has been located for him. It is possible that Turner Griffin is buried in the Griffin Cemetery.
3. Jesse Powell Griffin was born in 1830. He married Nancy Jane Wilder in 1858 and Federal population census data reports that they moved to Fannin, Texas, in 1877. His wife died in 1878 was buried in Burnett Cemetery, Fannin County, Texas. (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/115081796>). He died in 1907 and was buried in Dodd City Cemetery, Fannin County, Texas. (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14918738>).
4. Richard Nowell Griffin was born in 1834 and died in 1929. He was owner of the property at the time of his death and has the only inscribed headstone in the Griffin Cemetery. Further description of him, his wife, and children follow in the next section.



PLACE OF DEATH		North Carolina State Board of Health		BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS		271	
County	Wake	DEC 5 1914	CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		File No.	Nov 12	
Township	New Light	Registration District No.	92 = 8039	Registered No.	5		
Town							
City							
FULL NAME		Mary A. Griffin					
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			
SEX	M.	COLOR OR RACE	White	SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, or DIVORCED	Married		
DATE OF BIRTH	June 19, 1836			DATE OF DEATH	Nov 2, 1914		
AGE	88 yrs. 4 mos. 13 ds.			I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from			
OCCUPATION	House Keeping			that I last saw him alive on			
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS	Fair			and that death occurred on the date above stated, at			
BIRTHPLACE	Wake Co			The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:			
NAME OF FATHER	William Monroe			old age			
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER	Wake Co						
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER	Biddie Orsual						
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER	Wake Co						
THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE				*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.			
(Informant) George Orsual				LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents)			
(Address) Wake Forest				At place of death: yrs. mos. ds. In the State: yrs. mos. ds.			
Filed Nov 12, 1914 J. H. Pleasant				Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?			
				Former or usual residence			
				PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL		DATE OF BURIAL	
				old family grave		Nov 3, 1914	
				ADDRESS			
				Gale's addn. Panel Wake Forest			

Figure 4. Mary Ann O'Neal Griffin's (spouse of William Monroe Griffin Jr.) 1914 Death Certificate.

- John Y. Griffin was born in 1836. In 1861, he enlisted in Company I, First NC Infantry. He died of disease in 1863 and was buried at the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117015602>).
- Mary Ann Griffin was born in 1839. The only record found for her is the 1850 Federal population census, when she was 11 years old. No marriage or death certificate has been located for her. It is possible that she died young and is buried in the Griffin Cemetery.
- Eliza Catherine Griffin was born in 1838 and married Benjamin F. Collett (sometimes spelled Catlett). The *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from North Carolina* (NARA M270; Roll 0514) report that he enlisted on 12 May 1862 into the 55th Regiment, Company G, NC Infantry. He fought at Gettysburg and was captured on 1 July 1863 (First Day of the Battle of Gettysburg) and sent as a prisoner of war to Fort Delaware located on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River. He died of typhoid fever on 10 September 1863. It is not known where he is buried; however, many prisoners who died at the fort were buried at Finns Point National Cemetery in New Jersey. His widow, Eliza Catherine Griffin Collett died in 1924. Her death certificate states that she was buried in the "Griffin Burying Ground" (Figure 5).

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
**STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

050. 346

1 PLACE OF DEATH  
County Wake 92 Registration District No. 92-8365 State NC Registrar No. 7  
Township Wake Forest Village \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
2 FULL NAME Eliza Catherine Griffin Collett 430  
(a) Residence No. \_\_\_\_\_ (b) death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number  
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident give city or town and State)  
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. How long in U. S. if foreign birth yrs. mos. da.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3 Sex <u>Female</u>	4 Color or Race <u>White</u>	5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) <u>Widowed</u>	16 Date of Death (month, day, and year) <u>Feb 20</u> 19 <u>24</u>		
6 Date of birth (month, day, and year) _____			17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Feb 20</u> 19 <u>24</u> to <u>Feb 20</u> 19 <u>24</u> that I last saw him alive on <u>2/19</u> 19 <u>24</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Senility</u> (164)		
7 Age <u>87</u> Years Months Days If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or mins.			Contributory (SECONDARY) <u>Heart failure</u>		
8 Occupation of deceased (a) Trade, Profession, or particular kind of work <u>House wife</u> (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) (c) Name of employer			18 Where was disease contracted? If not at place of death?		
9 Birthplace (city or town) <u>Wayne</u> (State or country)			Did an operation precede death? <u>No</u> Date of _____		
10 Name of Father <u>Griffin</u> (State or country)			Was there an autopsy? <u>No</u>		
11 Birthplace of Father (city or town) <u>Wayne</u> (State or country)			What test confirmed diagnosis? (Signed) <u>B. N. Wilkerson, M.D.</u>		
12 Maiden Name of Mother <u>Sant/Russ</u>			19 (Address) <u>Wake Forest, N. C.</u>		
13 Birthplace of Mother (city or town) <u>Wayne</u> (State or country)			"State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MANNER AND NATURE OF INJURY, and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, OR HOMICIDAL." (See reverse side for additional space.)		
14 Informant <u>J. W. Collett</u> (Address) <u>101-112 2726</u>			19 Place of Burial, Cremation, or removal <u>Griffin Burial Ground</u>		Date of Burial <u>2/21 1924</u>
15 Filed <u>3-10-24</u> <u>W. B. Timberlake</u> REGISTRAR			20 Undertaker <u>The Shaw and Co.</u>		Address _____

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK.—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIAN should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

Figure 5. Eliza Catherine Griffin Collett's (sister of Richard Nowell Griffin) 1924 Death Certificate.

8. Nancy Griffin was born in 1842. She became the second wife of Alpheus Bobbitt in 1869. She died in 1916 and was buried at Perry's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery in Franklinton, Franklin County, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/5690418>).
9. Ailsey Dorcas "Dorsey" Griffin was born in 1845 and married Wiley W. Holmes in 1870. She died in 1900 and was buried in Leah's Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery in Franklin County, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50838820/holm>).
10. Samuel Griffin was born in 1848 and is recorded in the 1850 Federal population census as being two years old. There is no record of him in the 1860 census when he would have been about 12 years old. There is no record of him after 1850. It is possible that he died young and is buried in the Griffin Cemetery.
11. Manassas "Massey" Griffin (1851-1890) married Mary Ann Wilder (1843-1892) in 1880. Census records indicate that they had no children. They are buried at Perry's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery in Franklinton, Franklin County, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/111017561/massey-a-griffin> and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/111018816/mary-ann-griffin>).



### Richard Nowell Griffin (1834-1929) and Edna Elizabeth Pernell (1838-after 1900) Family

Richard Nowell Griffin married Edna Elizabeth "Betty" or "Bettie" Pernell around 1860. As stated previously, the married couple and their 8-month-old son James are reported in the 1860 Federal population census; the head of household was Richard's 51-year-old widowed mother, Catherine Bunch Griffin.

Richard Nowell Griffin's death certificate identifies his burial as being in the "Griffin Cemetery" (Figure 6). Betty Griffin, Richard Nowell Griffin's wife, died after 1900 (the last record of her is the 1900 census). No record of her death has been found. It seems very likely that she was buried in the Griffin Cemetery.

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

1 PLACE OF DEATH: County Wake, Registration District No. 42809, State NC, Registrar No. 12  
Township New Light, or Village \_\_\_\_\_, or Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number)

2 FULL NAME R. N. Griffin, (a) Residence, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Ward \_\_\_\_\_, (b) (if nonresident give city or town and State)  
(Usual place of abode)

Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth yrs. mos. ds.

**PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS**

3 Sex Male, 4 Color or Race White, 5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) \_\_\_\_\_  
6a. If married, widowed, or divorced, Husband of (or) Wife of Bettie E. Griffin  
7 Date of Birth (month, day, and year) \_\_\_\_\_  
8 Age years 91 months 6 days If LESS than 1 day, state in min. \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Occupation of deceased (a) Trade, Profession, or particular kind of work \_\_\_\_\_ (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) Name of employer \_\_\_\_\_  
10 Birthplace (city or town) (State or country) Wake NC  
11 Name of Father David Nowell  
12 Birthplace of Father (city or town) (State or country) Wake NC  
13 Maiden Name of Mother Catherine Griffin  
14 Birthplace of Mother (city or town) (State or country) Wake NC  
15 Informant J. H. Nowell (Address) Wake Forest, NC  
16 Filed Aug 6, 1929 by W. B. Sandling #1 Wake Forest REGISTRAR

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

16 Date of Death (month, day, and year) July 26 1929  
17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from June 2, 1929 to July 24, 1929 that I last saw him alive on July 1, 1929 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 8:30 A.M.  
The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:  
Cerebral Hemorrhage  
Contributory (duration) \_\_\_\_\_ (SECONDARY) \_\_\_\_\_ (duration) \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Where was disease contracted If not at place of death? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did an operation precede death? No Date of \_\_\_\_\_  
Was there an autopsy? No  
What test confirmed diagnosis? None (Signed) J. B. Nowell M. D.  
Date July 25, 1929 (Address) Wake Forest NC  
"State the Disease Causing Death, or in death from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)"  
19 Place of Burial, Cremation, or removal Date of Burial Griffin Cemetery 7/25 1929  
20 Examiner The Standard Co. Address Wake Forest, NC

Figure 6. Richard Nowell Griffin's 1929 Death Certificate.

Richard and Betty Griffin had six children: James (1859 - after 1920); Ira Lee (1866-1946); Geneva Anne (1873-1952); Elizabeth "Lizzie" Florence (1878-1958); Flarine (1879 - after 1880); and Minnie Belle Griffin Honeycutt (1883-1963).

- James was born in 1859 and never married. Federal population census data reports him in 1900 as living as a servant with the O'Neal family; in 1910 as a hired man, also with the O'Neal family; in 1920 he is identified living in the New Light Township as a brother-in-law in the William N. and Ruth J. O'Neal family; the reference to brother in law is not clear, since Ruth J. O'Neal is not his sister. There is no record of him after 1920. It is possible that James Griffin is buried in the Griffin Cemetery.



- Ira Lee (1866-1946) married Mary Anna “Annie” or “Ann” Neville (1873-1948) in 1894. The 1900 Federal population census reports that they lived in Creedmoor, Granville County, NC. The census data from 1910 to 1940 reports them living in the Wake County, New Light Township, but does not identify any children from this marriage. Their death certificates indicate that they were buried in the Griffin Cemetery (Figure 7 and Figure 8).
- Geneva Anne was born in 1873 and married John Henry Carroll Sr. (1860-1936) in 1893. Census data reports that they had six children and lived in Wake Forest. John Henry Carroll Sr. died in 1936 and was buried at Wake Forest Town Cemetery <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114249116>. Geneva Anne Griffin Carroll died in 1952 and was buried at Wake Forest Town Cemetery. (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114249491>).
  - Three of their six children are also buried at Wake Forest Town Cemetery.
    - Effie Vanburn “Vann” Carroll (1903-1927) (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114248928/effie-vann-carroll>)
    - Thomas Griffin Carroll (1906-1954) (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114254200/thomas-griffin-carroll>)
    - John Henry Carroll Jr. (1906-1962) (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114328993>)
  - The burial location of their other three children follows.
    - Vera Lorene Carroll Cuthrell (1897-1987) was buried at Westlawn Cemetery in Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/121697637/vera-lorene-cuthrell>).
    - Reuben Sanford Carroll (1902-1943) was lost at sea in the North Atlantic during WW2 (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/77006108/reuben-sanford-carroll>).
    - Robert Waverly Carroll (1915-1972) was buried in Los Angeles, CA (State of California. *California Death Index, 1940-1997*. Sacramento, CA, USA: State of California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics).
- Elizabeth “Lizzie” Florence (1878-1958) married Charles Patrick “Pat” Arnold (1872-1936) in 1900. They moved to the St. Matthews Township in Wake County and had six children. Their death certificates indicate that they were buried at New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery, Raleigh, NC (images not included in this report). Burial records for three of their six children were found.
  - Bennie Dixon Arnold (1908-1996) was buried at Knightdale Baptist Church Cemetery (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/79870540>).
  - Odell Arnold's (1916-1943) death certificate indicates he was buried at New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery.
  - Virginia Dare Arnold Allen (1920-2012) was buried at New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101349092>).
- Flarine was born in 1879 and only appears in the 1880 Federal population census. There is no record of her marriage or death. It is possible that she died young and was buried in the Griffin Cemetery.

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS**

**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH** 15441

AUG 8 1946

**1. PLACE OF DEATH:**  
(a) County Wake  
(b) Town/city Raleigh  
(c) City or town Raleigh  
(d) Street, hospital or institution Rex Hospital  
(e) Length of stay in hospital or institution 0-0-5  
(f) In this community Life

**2. HOME (USUAL RESIDENCE) OF DECEASED:**  
(a) State N.C. (b) County Wake  
(c) City or town Wake Forest  
(d) Street or R.F.D. RFD # 2  
(e) Is place of residence in corporate limits? No  
(f) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A.? Native years.

**3(a) FULL NAME** Ira L. Griffin  
**3(b) IT** No **3(c) Social Security No.** None  
**4. Sex** Male **5. Color or Race** White **6(a) Single, married, widowed, or divorced** Married  
**6(b) Name of husband or wife** Richard Griffin  
(c) Age of husband or wife if alive years.

**7. Birth date of deceased** 1867  
(month, day and year)  
**8. AGE:** 79 Years Months Days (If less than one day hrs. min.)  
**9. Birthplace** Wake County N.C.  
(City, town, or country) (State or foreign country)  
**10. Usual occupation** Farmer-retired  
**11. Industry or business** Self

**12. Name** Richard Griffin  
**13. Birthplace** Wake County N.C.  
**14. Maiden Name** Unknown  
**15. Birthplace** W

**16(a) Informant's Signature** Mrs. Ira L. Griffin  
**(b) Address** Wake Forest N.C.  
**17(a) Burial** (b) Date of burial July 18, 1946  
(c) Cemetery Griffin Family Cemetery  
(d) Location Wake County N.C.  
**18(a) Funeral director** Beddingfield Funeral Home  
**(b) Address** Wake Forest N.C.  
**19(a) 8-5** 1946 a C. B. Buehler  
**(b) 2** a C. B. Buehler

**20. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION**  
**20. Date of death** July 16th 1946 at 12:00 N.M.  
**21. I certify that death occurred on the day above stated; that I attended deceased from** 7-12-1946 to 7-16-1946  
and that I last saw him alive on 7-16-1946  
**Immediate cause of death** CORONARY OCCLUSION **Duration** Sudden  
**Due to** CA OF SIGMOID COLON & OBSTRUCTION  
**Due to** OF BOWEL  
**Other conditions** (Include pregnancy within 2 months of death) None  
**Underlie the cause to which death should be charged** CA. OF SIGMOID - CHEST NOT DONE  
**22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:**  
(a) Accident, violence, or homicide (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) Date of occurrence \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State) \_\_\_\_\_  
(d) Did injury occur about house, on farm, in industrial place, in a public place? (Specify type of place) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) Nature of injury L.H. Shinclain  
**23. Signature** P. F. Buehler **Date signed** 7-23-46  
**Address** Raleigh N.C.

Figure 7. Ira Lee Griffin's (son of Richard Nowell Griffin) 1946 Death Certificate.

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS**

**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH** 4318

MAR 8 1948

**1. PLACE OF DEATH:**  
(a) County Wake  
(b) Town/city Raleigh  
(c) City or town Raleigh  
(d) Street, hospital or institution Wake County Home  
(e) Length of stay in hospital or institution 1-6-24  
(f) In this community Life

**2. HOME (USUAL RESIDENCE) OF DECEASED:**  
(a) State N.C. (b) County Wake  
(c) City or town Wake Forest  
(d) Street or R.F.D. RFD # 2  
(e) Is place of residence in corporate limits? No  
(f) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A.? Native years.

**3(a) FULL NAME** Mrs. Annie Griffin  
**3(b) IT** No **3(c) Social Security No.** None  
**4. Sex** Female **5. Color or Race** White **6(a) Single, married, widowed, or divorced** Widowed  
**6(b) Name of husband or wife** Ira Griffin  
(c) Age of husband or wife if alive years.

**7. Birth date of deceased** May 1873  
(month, day and year)  
**8. AGE:** 74 Years Months Days (If less than one day hrs. min.)  
**9. Birthplace** Granville Co. N.C.  
(City, town, or country) (State or foreign country)  
**10. Usual occupation** Domestic  
**11. Industry or business** None

**12. Name** Shirley Neville  
**13. Birthplace** Granville Co. N.C.  
**14. Maiden Name** Mary Anna  
**15. Birthplace** Granville Co. N.C.

**16(a) Informant's Signature** A. F. Neville  
**(b) Address** Box 58, Granville, N.C.  
**17(a) Burial** (b) Date of burial 2-23-48  
(c) Cemetery Griffin Family  
(d) Location Wake Co. N.C.  
**18(a) Funeral director** Beddingfield Funeral Home  
**(b) Address** Wake Forest, N.C.  
**19(a) 2-26** 1948 a C. B. Buehler  
**(b) 2** a C. B. Buehler

**20. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION**  
**20. Date of death** Feb 22 1948 at 6:00 P.M.  
**21. I certify that death occurred on the day above stated; that I attended deceased from** 2-21-48 to 2-22-48  
and that I last saw her alive on 2-21-48  
**Immediate cause of death** Cerebral hemorrhage **Duration** 24 hrs.  
**Due to** arteriosclerosis & hypertension  
**Due to** None  
**Other conditions** (Include pregnancy within 2 months of death) None  
**Underlie the cause to which death should be charged** None  
**22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:**  
(a) Accident, violence, or homicide (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) Date of occurrence \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State) \_\_\_\_\_  
(d) Did injury occur about house, on farm, in industrial place, in a public place? (Specify type of place) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) Nature of injury None  
**23. Signature** A. F. Neville **Date signed** 2-24-48  
**Address** Box 58, Granville, N.C.

Figure 8. Mary Anna "Annie" or "Ann" Neville Griffin's (spouse of Ira Lee Griffin) 1948 Death Certificate.



- Minnie Belle Griffin (1883-1963) married Claud Jackson Honeycutt (1877-1953) in 1899. She died in 1963 and was buried at Wake Union Baptist Church in Wake Forest (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39127692>) alongside her husband who died in 1953 (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39127660/claude-jackson-honeycutt>). They had three children. All three are buried at Wake Union Baptist Church Cemetery.
  - Eva Belle Honeycutt Beckman (1918-1986) (Virginia Death Certificate)
  - Estelle "Lizzie" Honeycutt Hicks (1908-2003) (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39127899>).
  - Ollie Prince Honeycutt (1900-1981) (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39186436>).

Genealogical research relevant to the Griffin Cemetery found death certificates for four burials (Richard Nowell Griffin, Ira Lee Griffin, Mary Anna "Annie" or "Ann" Neville Griffin, and Eliza Catherine Griffin Collett) that specify the burial location as the "Griffin Cemetery" (Table 2).

In addition, it is possible that 11 other members of the Griffin family are buried in the cemetery. This includes Richard Nowell Griffin's grandmother (Mary Griffin), his parents (William Monroe Griffin Sr. and Catherine Bunch Griffin), three of his brothers (William Monroe Jr., Turner, and Samuel), a sister-in-law (Mary Ann O'Neal Griffin), his wife (Edna Elizabeth Pernell Griffin), one of their four daughters (Flarine), their unmarried son (James), and his niece, Mary Ann Griffin.

Table 2. Summary of burials and possible burials at the Griffin Cemetery.

Type	Name	Death Date	Relationship to Richard Nowell Griffin	Documentation
Known Burials	Richard Nowell Griffin	1929	self	Gravemarker and death certificate
	Ira Lee Griffin	1946	son	Death certificate
	Mary Anna "Annie" or "Ann" Neville Griffin	1948	daughter-in-law	Death certificate
	Eliza Catherine Griffin Collett	1924	sister	Death certificate
Possible Burials	Catherine Bunch Griffin	After 1880	mother	Last record the 1880 census
	William Monroe Griffin, Sr.	1856	father	Death reported in the <i>Semi-Weekly Standard</i> (Raleigh, North Carolina), December 10, 1856, p. 3.
	William Monroe Griffin, Jr.	After 1914	brother	Spouse's 1914 Death Certificate states she was married
	Mary Ann O'Neal Griffin	1914	sister-in-law	Death certificate states "Old family graveyard"
	Edna Elizabeth "Betty" or "Bettie" Pernell	After 1900	wife	Last record the 1900 census
	Turner Griffin	After 1850	brother	Last record the 1850 census
	Samuel Griffin	After 1850	brother	Last record the 1850 census
	Flarine Griffin	After 1880	daughter	Last record the 1880 census
	James Griffin	After 1920	son	Last record the 1920 census
	Mary Griffin	Between 1850 and 1860	grandmother	Listed on the 1850 census but not on the 1860 census
	Mary Ann Griffin	After 1850	Niece - daughter of William Monroe Griffin Sr. and Catherine Bunch Griffin	Listed on the 1850 census but not on the 1860 census

### Field Investigations

Following the background research, described above, field investigations for the Griffin Cemetery were conducted on 16-17 July 2015. A description of the work conducted at and around the cemetery follows.

The field inspection of the cemetery consisted of removing the layer of pine needles and dead tree branches and limbs that covered the cemetery area.

The inspection found no evidence of traditional flowering shrubs, such as roses, azaleas, or forsythia or other common cemetery vegetation (e.g., yucca, English ivy, and periwinkle).

The investigation consisted of a systematic visual reconnaissance and subsurface probing to determine the cemetery boundaries based on the distribution of graves and possible graves. While the field methods used are a reasonable and prudent effort and meet or exceed present professional standards for cemetery studies, the only method to guarantee locating every burial in a cemetery requires complete excavation, which is beyond the scope of this survey.

The inspection for graves consisted of identifying grave locations based on one or more of the following.

- presence of an inscribed or uninscribed gravestone
- presence of a rectangular graveshaft depression
- detection of past ground disturbance associated with a burial pit

Probing consisted of using a metal ground-penetrating T-bar probe to assess soil compaction and thereby identify areas that may have been previously excavated for burials. Probed locations where the T-bar sank into the ground with less effort than in the undisturbed soil area were investigated further by close-interval probing to detect a pattern of disturbance that was consistent with a rectangular-shaped graveshaft.

The investigation resulted in identifying 12 known or possible graves and an area (6 ft east-west by 17 ft north-south) located west of those graves that showed evidence of past ground disturbance. This area may have been used for the burial of infants or small children and is identified as "possible small grave area" on Figure 10.

The 12 known or possible graves include one grave with an inscribed headstone (Richard Nowell Griffin), three graves that are identified only by the presence of an uninscribed headstone and/or footstone made from local fieldstone, three graves identified by ground depressions, and five graves identified by the presence of disturbed soil found during probing. The identified burials or possible burials cover an area that is approximately 50 ft north-south by 40 ft east-west (Figure 9 and Figure 10).





Figure 9. Griffin Cemetery view north from Derby Glen Way in 2015.

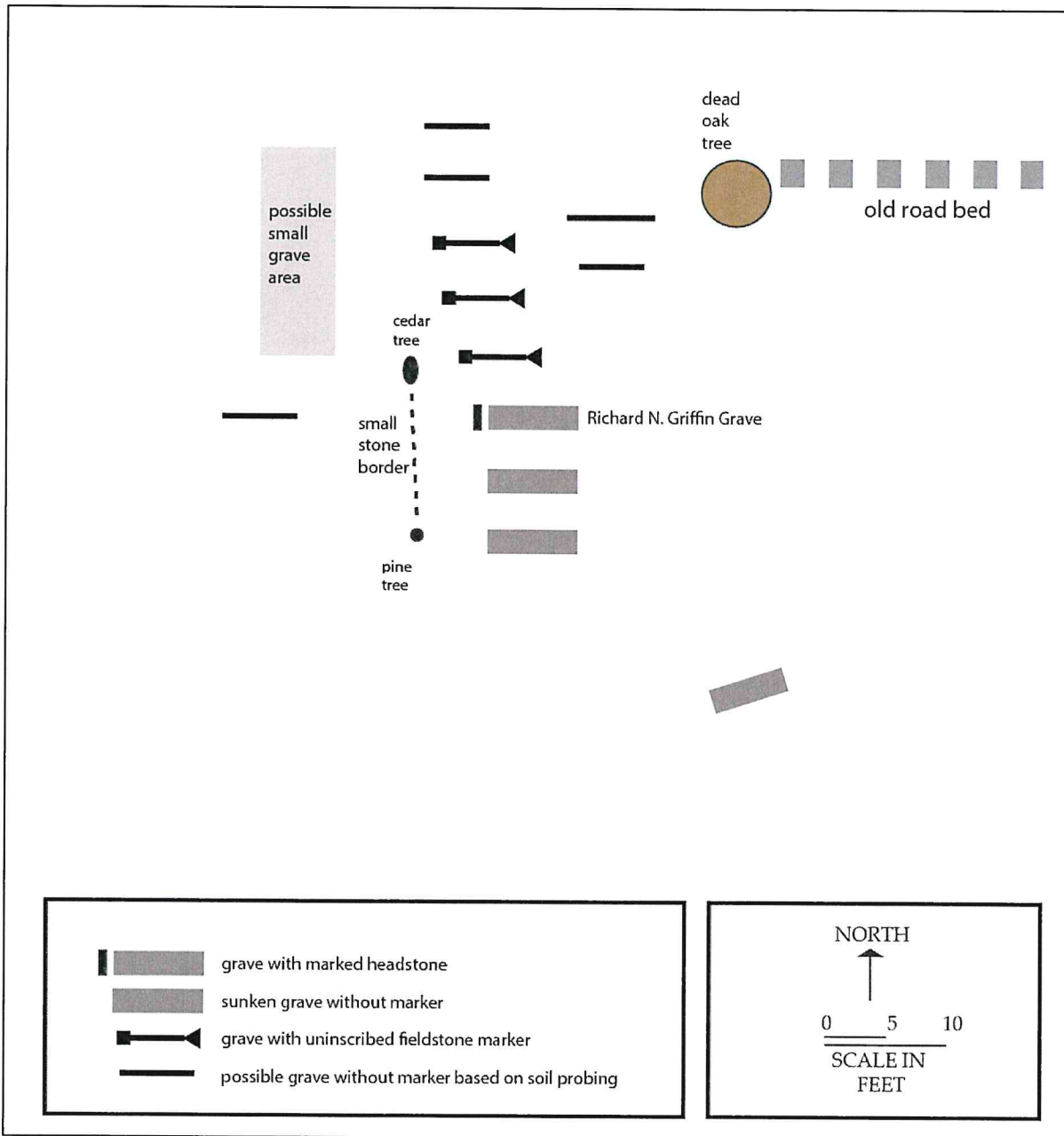


Figure 10. Plan map of the Griffin Cemetery.



## Inscribed Gravestone

The one inscribed headstone in the cemetery is for Richard Nowell Griffin (Figure 11). He was a Civil War veteran who was born on 8 February 1834 in Wake County, NC, and died on 24 July 1929 in New Light Township, Wake County, NC, at the age of 95. A description of his military history follows.



Figure 11. Richard Nowell Griffin headstone view east. Note: artificial flower was exposed during cemetery clearing efforts prior to site mapping.

Richard Nowell Griffin is reported in the *NC Troops 1861-1865, Volume XIII, Infantry* compiled by Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr. in 1993 (page 518). This description states that he "... resided in Wake County where he enlisted at age 28 on 14 July 1862." The 1993 Jordan report continues by stating that Richard Nowell Griffin initially joined the *Franklin Farmers* that became part of Company I." The Franklin Farmers was raised in May 1862 and mustered into State Service at Camp Mangum near Raleigh on 31 May 1862. They were assigned to the 55<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Company I.

Richard Nowell Griffin reported to the 55<sup>th</sup> Regiment between May and June 1864 and was wounded at Globe Tavern, Virginia, on 18 August 1864. His finger was amputated, and he returned to duty prior to 1 November 1864. He was captured near Hatcher's Run, Virginia, on 1 April 1865 and confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, on 5 April 1865. He was released on 27 June 1865 after taking the Oath of Allegiance, which was an oath to "faithfully support, protect



and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of the States thereunder" as a condition for a Presidential pardon.

Richard Nowell Griffin's gravemarker is a granite slab design referred to as the "General" type that became the regulation gravemarker that was authorized by the War Department (<http://www.cem.va.gov/history/hmhist.asp>). The stone is slightly rounded and peaked at the top. It measures 42 inches long, 13 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Following regulations, the inscription on the front face includes the name of the soldier, his rank, regiment, division, date of death, and state from which he came. On 26 May 1930, the War Department authorized the inscription of the Southern Cross of Honor<sup>2</sup> in a small circle on the front face of the stone. In addition to Richard Nowell Griffin's military headstone, there is a displaced granite uninscribed footstone near the foot of his grave.

A row of stones between two trees near the Richard Nowell Griffin gravemarker and a displaced fieldstone gravemarker leaning against a tree were noted during the investigation (Figure 12).



Figure 12. Richard Nowell Griffin headstone, a border of stones to the west, and a possible displaced gravemarker leading against the tree, view northwest.

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<sup>2</sup> The Southern Cross of Honor is the name of a post-Civil war medal created by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and was given in recognition of "loyal, honorable service" by Confederate military personnel and veterans ([https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern\\_Cross\\_of\\_Honor](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Cross_of_Honor)).



### Uninscribed Gravestones

In addition to the Richard Nowell Griffin gravemarker, the investigation identified three graves that were identified by the presence of uninscribed fieldstone markers (headstone and footstone). These three graves lie adjacent to each other and just north of the Richard Nowell Griffin gravemarker (see Figure 10 and Figure 13).



Figure 13. Richard Nowell Griffin headstone/footstone and the three uninscribed fieldstone gravemarkers to the north, view southwest.

### Potential Graves without Markers

Three graves without markers were identified by rectangular depressions and five possible graves were identified based on the lack of soil-resistance during probing (see Figure 10).

In addition, there was an area that measured approximately 6 ft by 17 ft located west of the graves that had inconsistent results with soil probing. It is possible that this area may contain small shallow graves, possibly associated with infant burials (see Figure 10).



## Project Results

The focus of the investigation was to locate information about the age of the cemetery and who may have been buried there in addition to conducting archaeological field investigations to identify and map known and possible burials. This information was used initially (2015) to identify the limits of the cemetery to ensure its protection and now (2019) as the basis for this grave removal petition.

Fieldwork found evidence of at least 12 graves or potential grave locations that are oriented generally east-west with the headstones, when present, on the west end of the grave. This is consistent with the Christian method of positioning the coffin or shroud covered body in the grave with the head to the west and feet to the east.

In addition, there is an area that measures approximately 6 ft by 17 ft that had inconsistent probing results and needs to be investigated for shallow burials.

The Griffin Cemetery has the attributes of the Pioneer and Transitional cemetery models.

It follows the Pioneer Model in being small and being located on a hilltop, the graves were laid out in an east-west direction and neatly aligned, and the only vegetation appears to be cedar trees and a very large dead oak tree. The compact soil at the cemetery found during probing suggests that in the past this was a well-maintained cemetery that included scraping the ground surface near the graves.

Attributes of the Transitional Model include the absence of creative markings, decorations, or grave shelters and the introduction of commercially produced gravestones with epitaphs. However, there is an absence of cemetery vegetation typically found in a Transitional Model cemetery, such as magnolia and crape myrtle trees, flowering shrubs (roses, azaleas, and forsythia), or other cemetery vegetation (yucca, English ivy, and periwinkle).

Research found evidence that up to four generations of the Griffin Family may be interred in the Griffin Cemetery (Table 3).

Death certificates were found for two generations of the Griffin Family who were interred in the Griffin Cemetery. These include Richard Nowell Griffin, his sister Eliza Catherine Griffin Collett, his son Ira Lee Griffin, and daughter-in-law Mary Anna "Annie" or "Ann" Neville Griffin (wife of Ira Lee Griffin).

In addition, research found that it appears likely that there may be graves for Richard Nowell Griffin's grandmother (Mary Griffin), father (William Monroe Griffin Sr.), mother (Catherine Bunch Griffin), and three of his brothers (William Monroe Jr., Turner, and Samuel). The death certificate for his sister-in-law Mary Ann O'Neal Griffin (wife of William Monroe Griffin Jr.) indicates that she may be buried in the Griffin Cemetery. It is also possible that Richard Nowell Griffin's wife, Edna Elizabeth "Betty" or "Bettie" Pernell; their daughter Flarine; their unmarried son James, and a niece, Mary Ann Griffin, may be buried in the Griffin Cemetery.

Table 3. Summary of burials and possible burials at the Griffin Cemetery by generation showing the relationship with the known burial, Richard Nowell Griffin.				
Generation	Name	Death Date	Relationship to Richard Nowell Griffin	Documentation
First	Mary Griffin	Between 1850 and 1860	grandmother	Last record the 1850 census
Second	William Monroe Griffin, Sr.	1856	father	Death reported in the <i>Semi-Weekly Standard</i> (Raleigh, North Carolina), December 10, 1856, p. 3.
	Catherine Bunch Griffin	After 1880	mother	Last record the 1880 census
Third	Richard Nowell Griffin	1929	self	Gravemarker and death certificate
	Edna Elizabeth "Betty" or "Bettie" Pernell	After 1900	wife	Last record the 1900 census
	Eliza Catherine Griffin Collett	1924	sister	Death certificate
	William Monroe Griffin, Jr.	After 1914	brother	Spouse's 1914 death certificate states she was married
	Mary Ann O'Neal Griffin	1914	sister-in-law	Death certificate states "Old family graveyard"
	Turner Griffin	After 1850	brother	Last record the 1850 census
	Samuel Griffin	After 1850	brother	Last record the 1850 census
Fourth	Ira Lee Griffin	1946	son	Death certificate
	Mary Anna "Annie" or "Ann" Neville Griffin	1948	daughter-in-law	Death certificate
	Flarine Griffin	After 1880	daughter	Last record the 1880 census
	James Griffin	After 1920	son	Last record the 1920 census
	Mary Ann Griffin	After 1850	Niece - daughter of William Monroe Griffin Sr. and Catherine Bunch Griffin	Listed on the 1850 census but not on the 1860 census



### **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 Griffin Cemetery 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 distinctive characteristics of a type a cemetery that would warrant preservation. 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.

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

A legal notice was published in the *Raleigh News & Observer* on April 26, May 3, 10, and 17, 2019 (Figure 14). This notification was to comply with state law<sup>3</sup> and to attempt to notify next of kin about the proposed cemetery relocation and locate persons with interest in, or knowledge about the graves on this property. No response was received to the four weekly legal advertisements soliciting information related to the Griffin Cemetery.

#### LEGAL NOTICE

In the matter of the intention for the removal and reinterment of approximately 12 graves at 8409 Thompson Mill Road, Wake Forest. PIN 1832200660. One grave is marked: Richard N. Griffin (1831-1929). Anyone having information about these graves or the next of kin please contact Deborah Joy at 919-215-6469 or [djoy@legacy-research.com](mailto:djoy@legacy-research.com).

N&O (N): April 26; May 3, 10, 17, 2019

Figure 14. Legal Notice for the proposed relocation of graves at the Griffin Cemetery (*News & Observer* April 26, May 3, 10, and 17, 2019).

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<sup>3</sup> North Carolina General Statute 65-106 - The party effecting the disinterment, removal, and reinterment of a grave containing a decedent's remains under the provisions of this Part shall, before disinterment, give 30 days' written notice of such intention to the next of kin of the decedent, if known or subject to being ascertained by reasonable search and inquiry, and shall cause notice of such disinterment, removal, and reinterment to be published at least once per week for four successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where such grave is located, and the first publication shall be not less than 30 days before disinterment. Any remains disinterred and removed hereunder shall be reinterred in a suitable cemetery.



### **Proposed Perpetual Care Cemetery Reinterment Sites**

Several living descendants of Richard Nowell Griffin have been identified by his great-granddaughter, Lynda Hicks Creutzburg, who is related to him through her maternal line. Lynda is the daughter of Estelle "Lizzie" Honeycutt Hicks, the granddaughter of Minnie Belle Griffin Honeycutt, and the great-granddaughter of Richard Nowell Griffin. She has identified the following individuals as being great-grandchildren of Richard Nowell Griffin.

- Shelia Honeycutt McFarland
- Curtis Honeycutt
- Larry Hicks
- Kitty Hicks Pulsifer

It is the preference of the identified living descendants to keep all the remains buried within the Griffin Cemetery together at the same reinterment site, but there is only one remaining family plot at the Wake Union Baptist Church Cemetery and there are no other plots available for purchase.

The identified living descendants noted above have indicated that they would prefer that the grave of their great-grandfather, Richard Nowell Griffin, be relocated to their remaining family plot at their church cemetery (Wake Union Baptist Church Cemetery, 13345 Wake Union Church Road, Wake Forest, NC – PIN 1841097787). Figure 15 depicts the proposed relocation of the Richard Nowell Griffin grave at Wake Union Baptist Church Cemetery.

At the request of the identified living descendants, the other remains disinterred from the Griffin Cemetery are proposed to be reinterred to the Wake Forest Town Cemetery located at 400 North White Street, Wake Forest, NC (PIN 1841622963). Richard Nowell Griffin's daughter, Geneva Anne Griffin Carroll (1873-1952), her husband John Henry Carroll Sr. (1860-1936), and three grandchildren – Effie Vanburn "Vann" Carroll (1903-1927), Thomas Griffin Carroll (1906-1954), and John Henry Carroll Jr. (1906-1962) are buried at the Wake Forest Town Cemetery. Figure 16 depicts the proposed relocation of the Griffin Cemetery at Wake Forest Town Cemetery.

The reason for the relocation of the graves is to move them to a place where they will receive proper perpetual care. Both Wake Union Baptist Church Cemetery and the Wake Forest Town Cemetery provide perpetual care.

Richard Nowell Griffin's existing gravestone will be reinstalled at the Wake Union Baptist Church Cemetery reinternment site. A marker will also be placed at the Town of Wake Forest internment site. It will read as follows.

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***(number) UNMARKED GRAVES***  
***MOVED FROM THE GRIFFIN FAMILY CEMETERY***  
***2726 DERBY GLEN LANE***  
***WAKE FOREST, NEW LIGHT TOWNSHIP, NC***  
***(date)***

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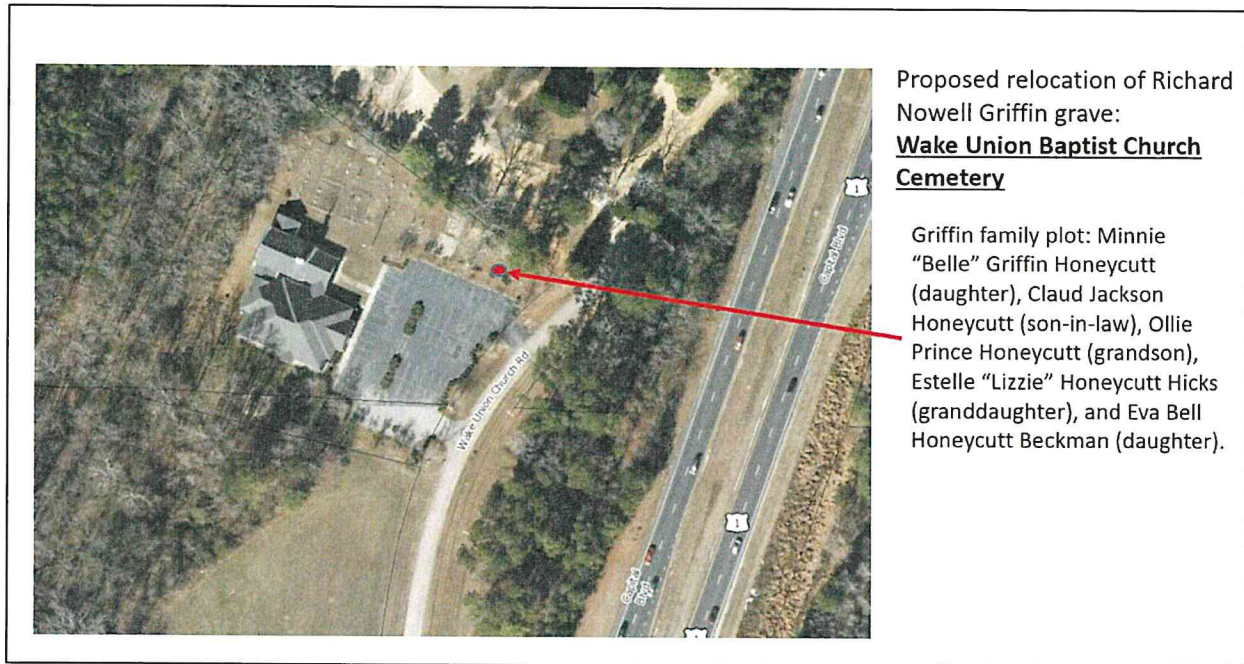


Figure 15. Proposed Relocation of the Richard Nowell Griffin Grave at Wake Union Baptist Church Cemetery.

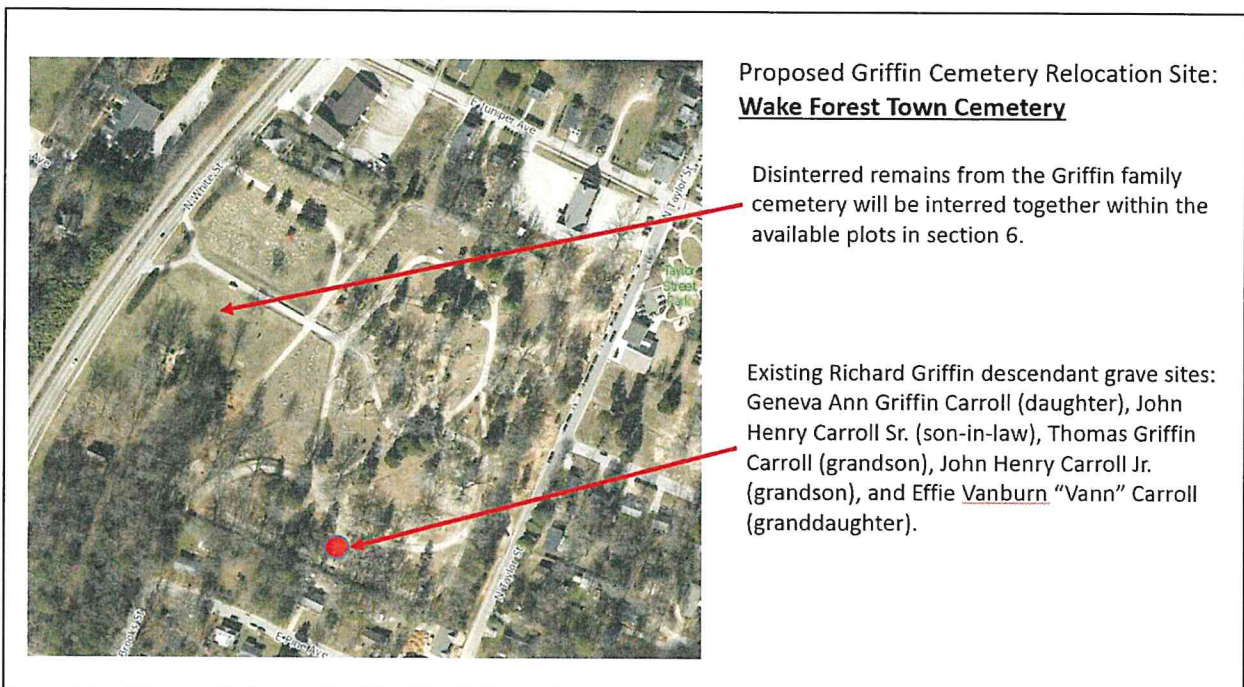


Figure 16. Proposed Relocation of the Griffin Cemetery at Wake Forest Town Cemetery.



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