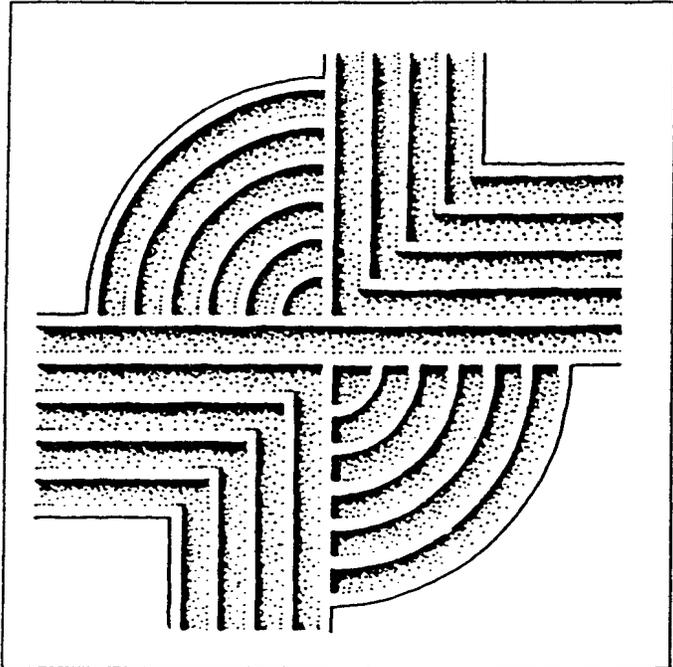


SCANLONVILLE, CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH  
CAROLINA: THE COMMUNITY AND THE CEMETERY



# SCANLONVILLE, CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA: THE COMMUNITY AND THE CEMETERY

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## ABSTRACT

Scanlonville is an African American community created in postbellum Charleston County as a voluntary association of blacks seeking to own their own land. In 1868 Robert L. Scanlon purchased the 614 acre Remley Plantation at auction in trust for The Charleston Land Company. By 1870 the land had been platted into both town lots, measuring 100 by 200 feet (or 0.5 acre) and farm lots, measuring 130 feet by 650 feet (or 2 acres). Also included in the community was a park and a cemetery — both apparently intended for the use and enjoyment of the entire African American community.

This is an exceptional community, being successfully organized by African Americans as a means of both acquiring and distributing land. Historians note only two or three similar organizations in South Carolina — and none of these remain today as viable communities.

Over the next 40 years Scanlonville prospered, with a number of its lots being sold. In addition to its residents owning land, apparently they could also become stockholders of the company and many did. In 1908 the company was reorganized, both as part of a necessity to obtain a new charter and also to obtain a loan to make repairs on the wharf at the village. This was done and the company continued until 1931 when its remaining, unsold lots were sold and, in 1932, the company was liquidated.

In spite of the company's demise, the community itself remained intact into the late twentieth century. Recently surrounding developments have begun to dramatically affect the integrity and cohesiveness of Scanlonville.

One example of this threat is the acquisition of the Scanlonville cemetery by individuals seeking to move the graves and build a house on the property. This research fails to

clearly document how the cemetery came to be viewed as property suitable for development. The Scanlonville graveyard continues to be used by the community and marked graves include a number of those known to have acquired land and lived in Scanlonville during the first half of the twentieth century. Graves as recent as the 1990s are found on the property.

Examination of the cemetery reveals that it is in all respects consistent with the organization, layout, and nature of African American burial grounds in the low country. Grave goods are present and a variety of marking devices have been used historically. Even its location adjacent to the marsh is a historically distinct — and critical — element of black burial practices.

The brief examination of the cemetery also reveals that there are a number of plants used to mark burials, in spite of disturbance caused by clearing reportedly conducted by the new property owners. These plants are also important aspects of the black experience and are often used as "living memorials" to mark the graves of loved ones.

We understand that those seeking to move the cemetery have used a land surveyor to "identify" graves in the cemetery. One document provides a list of 46 partial inscriptions, while another document is a plat of 115 graves.

Our own investigations suggest that these documents dramatically understate the number of graves present on the site. For example, in one area where the surveyor identified seven graves, we identified 10 marked graves, plus 13 unmarked graves — revealing that the surveyor underestimated the number of graves in this one area alone by 70%. Nearby, where the surveyor found no graves, we located eight in an area measuring about 500 square feet. This suggests

that the number of burials in the Scanlonville Grave Yard may range from nearly 600 to perhaps 2,000. A number somewhere in-between seems likely at present.

We have also found that both burial records and death certificates can be used to better identify those using the Scanlonville Cemetery. For example, both the Death Certificates used by the City of Charleston and those used by the State (beginning in 1915) include individuals buried at "Remley Point." In addition, the obituaries in the *Charleston News and Courier* also include individuals buried in Scanlonville.

We believe that the Scanlonville Cemetery is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (association with events), Criterion C (design) and Criterion D (importance of information). We also believe that the Scanlonville Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D (distinctive design features and association with historic events). Moreover, it is our professional opinion that the historic community of Scanlonville itself is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, C, and D.

Both the cemetery and the surrounding community are critical components of the forgotten history of Mount Pleasant and deserve to be preserved for future generations. The ideal solution is for the Town of Mount Pleasant to acquire the cemetery and institute development guidelines specific to this area to ensure that the historic character and integrity are preserved.

Any development in Scanlonville must recognize the unique opportunity to explore and examine African American lifeways during the early postbellum through turn of the century. Even the development surrounding Riverside, a segregated African American "beach" of the early twentieth century, along with corresponding activities in Scanlonville, present an exceptional opportunity to conduct research on a heretofore ignored component of African American life.

While claims are made that the Scanlonville cemetery is "abandoned," this ignores

that the cemetery continues to be used by the African American community and that removal of this cemetery — even if reburial were only a few hundred yards away — would traumatize the community and destroy a significant historical site.

Moreover, any discussion of removal must also incorporate a discussion of how the removal would take place, including what effort would be taken to identify next of kin, and what level of care and study would be used.

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## INTRODUCTION

This investigation was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for the African American community at Scanlonville. While my primary contact during these investigations was Ms. Jacqueline Gore, additional assistance was provided by Mr. David Simmons, Jr., Mr. William H. Fordham, Mr. Willie Robinson, and Ms. Dale Alston. The work was conducted to allow the community to better understand the history both of the community and its cemetery. In particular, this study examines the boundaries and potential for encountering human remains on the property. There is also a brief discussion of how human remains should be handled, if they are to be removed.

A far better approach than removal, however, is the preservation of the cemetery, which represents a critical element of the Scanlonville community. Cemeteries are always integral components of black life, but the history of the Scanlonville village makes the cemetery even more important and its preservation even more critical.

Consequently, this study also examines the historical significance of the cemetery, finding that there is ample evidence that the grave yard is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, this background review of the community suggests that it, too, is eligible for inclusion on the National Register, in spite of the “modern” appearance of many houses.

The study tract consists of what is locally known as the Remleys Point or Scanlonville Cemetery, situated on property which until 1999 was never clearly conveyed. As will be more fully described in the following section, this property — about 4 acres — was acquired by a local attorney, Tom Rogers, Jr., for \$1.7 million. Mr. Rogers desires to move the graves to allow the construction of his “dream” house (Fennell 2001).

The cemetery, which has been well known to the black community, is shown on the Scanlonville plat, and is also shown (at least partially) on the USGS topographic map of the area (Figure 1).

Access to the cemetery is by way of a dirt road — technically Fourth Avenue — running east off Third Street. The cemetery is bordered by Molasses Creek and the marsh to the north, and adjacent property to the east, west, and south. In fact, it is likely that the cemetery has been so extensively used that it extends southward onto previously established lots.

Historically, the cemetery has been covered in large live oaks, with an understory typical of maritime forests on the coast. Also present are second growth pines. The soils are classified as the Wando Series, exhibiting an A horizon of dark brown (10YR4/3) loamy fine sand about 0.7 foot in depth overlying a C horizon of brown (7.5YR5/4) loamy fine sand (Miller 1971:30, Map 53).

Historically the property can be traced back to the colonial period, when it was the plantation of Clement Lemprier (or Lempriere). It remained in the Lemprier family until 1828 and it appears likely that burials occurred on the tract during the early antebellum. By 1836 the 614 acre plantation was sold to Paul Remley. After the Civil War, in 1868, it was sold by the Remley heirs at auction. The purchaser was a freed black, John L. Scanlan (the name is often found spelled Scanlon), who formed the Charleston Land Company. This was one of only three or four organizations of this type known and its goal was to help blacks acquire property. As a voluntary subscription company, African Americans could not only purchase property at reasonable rates (often less than \$20 for a half acre lot), but could also become stockholders of the Company.

SCANLONVILLE: THE COMMUNITY AND THE CEMETERY

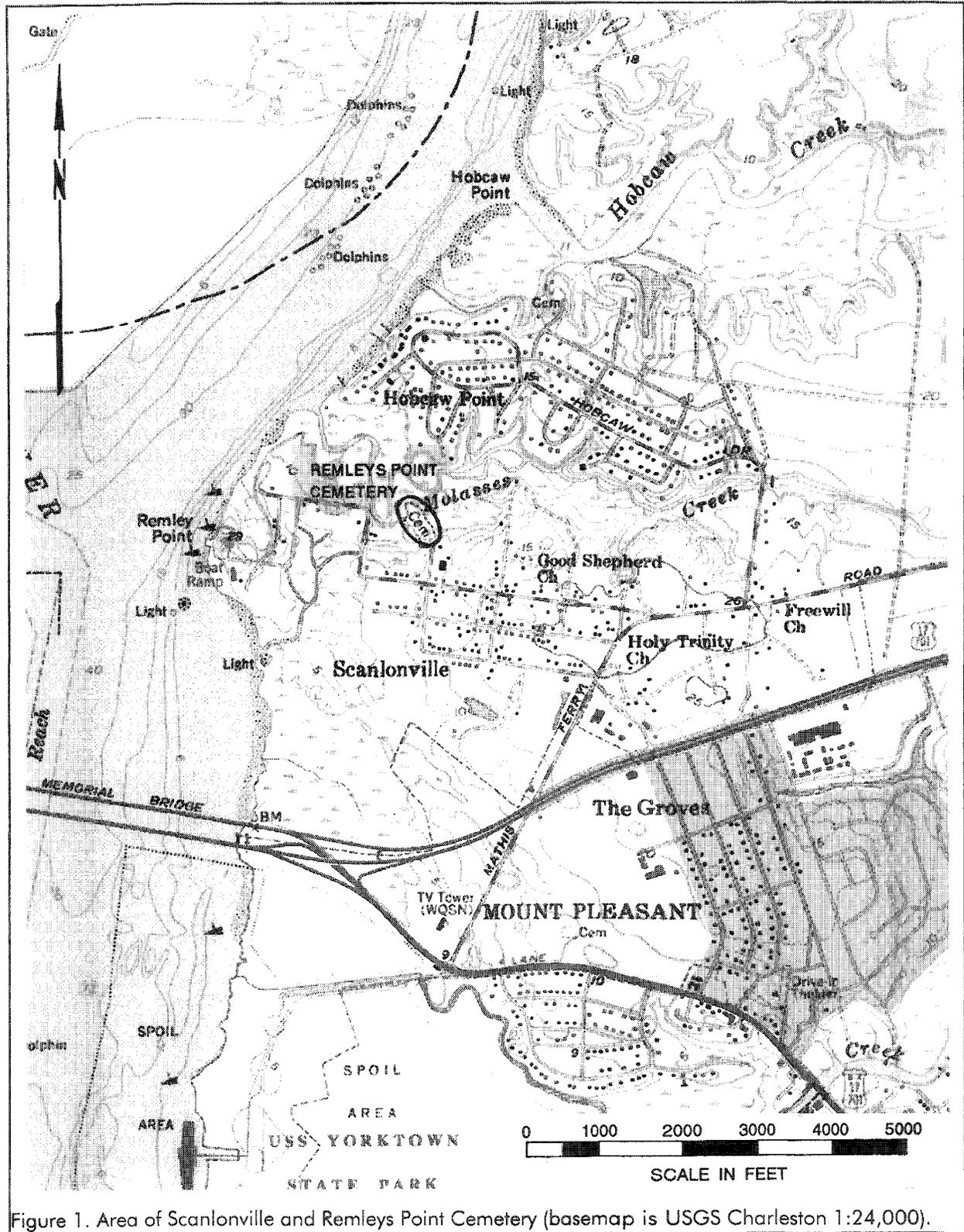


Figure 1. Area of Scanlonville and Remleys Point Cemetery (basemap is USGS Charleston 1:24,000).

It's likely that the Company, especially early in its history, served a variety of functions. It certainly tended to the business of selling its land, but it also provided care to the sick of the community, and amenities, including a park and a grave yard. It is telling that the two features incorporated into the plan of what became known as Scanlonville, after its founder, were facilities for recreation and burial — helping to care for community members in what was, even after the Civil War, a hostile white world.

Through the Company's rechartering in 1908, its liquidation in 1932, and the changing nature of the Scanlonville community, the cemetery remained a constant feature. Never considered Company property (at least never conveyed by any company deeds), it seems that the cemetery was seen as being owned by the community — entirely consistent with African American attitudes and beliefs. Consequently, it appears that the cemetery saw heavy use into the 1990s.

Since the announcement of the desire to move the cemetery, the Scanlonville community has expressed considerable anger and concern. Typical reactions (Fennell 2001; Quick 2001) include:

"My whole family is buried there. Don't touch them. It's sacred." — Mr. Albert Nelson

"Don't go digging up old memories. They are supposed to be resting in peace. This [the removal threat] is not resting in peace." — Ms. Barbara Williams

"Throwing these people from one side to the other. It's sickening for people who have family there." — Ms. Janie Drayton

"We are dealing with our ancestors and our families, and what I am hearing I don't like it" — Mr. Alonzo Bennett

"The whole property was designated as a cemetery. We've tried to figure out how they had the nerve to move the graves." — Ms. Linda North

It's likely that at least some of this anger is in response to the failure on the part of those seeking to move the graves to understand the nature of African American burial practices. Statements such as "its an abandoned graveyard and has been inaccessible for more than 10 years" (quote attributed to Ms. Victoria Rogers in Quick 2001) are predicated on a white perspective which is very different from that of African Americans. Similarly, the observation that the plan to move the graveyard is "better than [what] some Jersey developer [would do]" (Quick 2001) fails to recognize the importance of the location to the African American community and the horror of dislocation — regardless of who does it. Equally troubling to many in the Scanlonville community is the comment that while "many legitimate burials took place" "they [also] just buried people there without necessarily going through a funeral home" (Fennell 2001) since this implies that black mortuary customs are somehow illegal, inappropriate, or lacking in respect. But it is perhaps the observation that the Rogers have "had an eye on the land for 15 years" which causes the most disgust in the black community, which in general can't consider moving a burial ground simply to build a house.

Recently a group of Scanlonville residents contacted Chicora and requested that we examine and evaluate the cemetery — as well as the general Scanlonville area — for its National Register eligibility.

This report provides a brief historic overview of the cemetery and the Scanlonville neighborhood. While this information helps document the origin and use of the cemetery, and helps to place it in a historic context, it also provides several lists of individuals who are likely to have used the cemetery during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Our work also examines the usefulness of both death

certificates and obituaries to better understand use of the cemetery.

The investigation also incorporates a brief penetrometer reconnaissance of several cemetery areas, along with a comparison of this data to that generated by a land surveyor.

Finally, the study evaluates the significance of the property and attempts to weigh the historical and cultural consequences of moving the cemetery.

This should only be considered a preliminary study. There are additional historical accounts and resources which may provide significant information concerning either the cemetery or the village of Scanlonville. Similarly, only a very small sample of the death certificates or obituaries have been examined — many more await additional time (and funding).

## HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

### Early History of the Tract

Based only on secondary sources, it appears that the tract may have been initially acquired by Clement Lemprier (or Lempriere), although the only plat cited for this includes only 150 acres of marsh (SCDAH, State Grant, Bk. 16, page 247). While Petrona McIver is at times offered as a citation for the early owner, she describes Lempriere only as being from "Remley's Point," a rather general location (McIver 1960:15). Webber (1924) provides a little more information, noting that Lemprier was likely a British naval officer, who arrived in Carolina about 1743. After

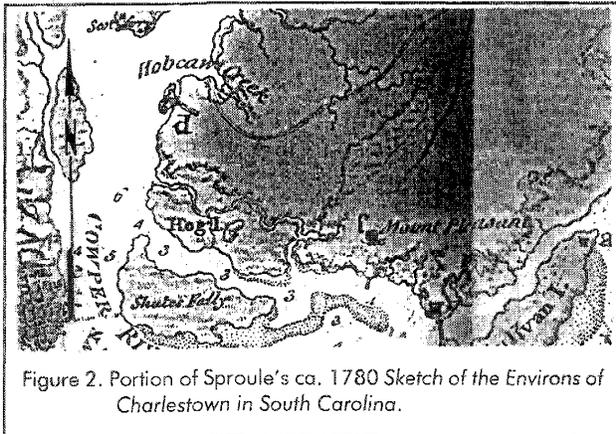


Figure 2. Portion of Sproule's ca. 1780 *Sketch of the Environs of Charlestown in South Carolina*.

this time he seems to have served as the captain of several privateers. His plantation, also reported to be in the immediate project area is also thought to have been used as a shipyard. He married three times, first to Elizabeth Varnor in 1745, then to Ann Wilks in 1746, and a third time to Sarah Bond. His second wife produced his only child, a daughter Ann, who married Charles Prince, a Lieutenant on the British ship *Mercury*.

Clement Lemprier drown at sea on December 28, 1778. His will, proved November

19, 1780, left £6,000 to his wife, Sarah, with the rest of his estate in trust to be divided between his daughter, Ann Prince, and her children, with a special note that Charles Prince was not to have any intermeddling (Charleston County WPA Will Book 19, pg. 61).

Both Tustin (1979) and Ulhendorf (1938) note that the Americans held a battery at Lempriere's Point. This is shown by Sproule's ca. 1780 map, *A Sketch of the Environs of Charlestown in South Carolina* (Figure 2). The notation (small d) is identified as "Strong Pofton [Position] Lempries [Lempriere's]." An even more detailed map is that by Sir Henry Clinton, dated 1780, *A Sketch of the Operations Before Charlestown the Capital of South Carolina*. In this map, shown as Figure 3, letter "R" denotes, "On Lemprier Point" "Strong Post & entrenched Camp for keeping the Communication of the Town open with the Country, by Coopers River, evacuated & taken Pofsefsion of by the Seamen & Marines the \_\_\_ April."

In particular this last eighteenth century map reveals that the Revolutionary War fortifications were found on what is today called Remleys Point (the area used as a boat landing) with earthworks along the water's edge, encampments in the interior, and trenches guarding the rear, connecting two inlets north and south. What is shown as Hobcaw Creek on both maps is, of course, known as Molasses Creek today. While this creek is poorly illustrated, what is shown is that there were a number of small plantations or settlements in the interior. Although their placement may not be accurate, what is portrayed are small farms and cultivated fields — entirely appropriate for this portion of Christ Church Parish at this time.

It is reported that the next reference to the property is found in 1787, when 305 acres was

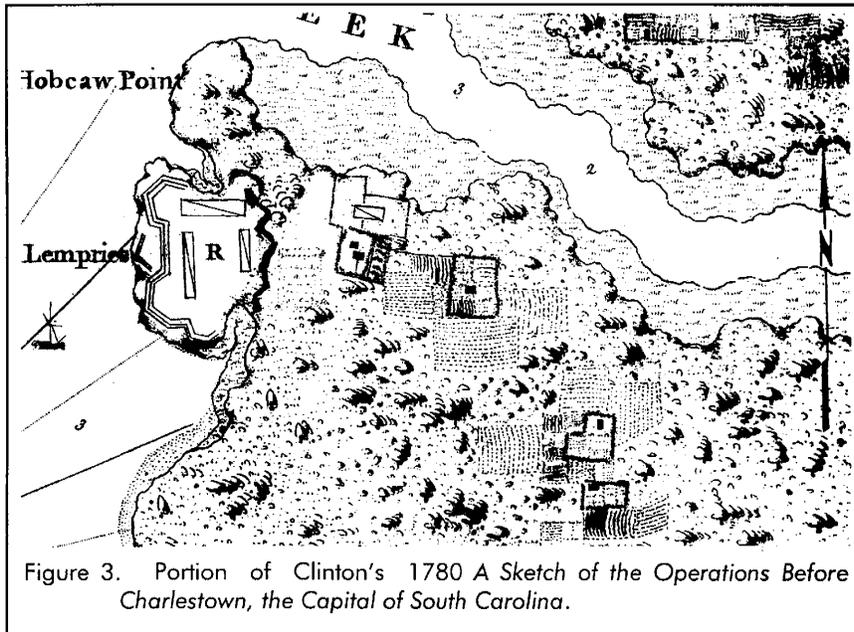


Figure 3. Portion of Clinton's 1780 A Sketch of the Operations Before Charlestown, the Capital of South Carolina.

Lemprier), defaulted on a loan from John Walker, forcing the sale of the tract. It passed from the Lemprier family after nearly 100 years and was acquired through auction by John Walker (Charleston County RMC, DB M10, pg. 390). It was known as Prince's Ferry, with the landing reported to be on Molasses Creek near Hobcaw Point.

In February 1832 Walker sold the 300 acre Prince's Ferry tract to John H. Mey for \$3,250. At that time it was described as bordering Magazine Creek (today Molasses Creek) to the north; the river and lands of John

Ellsworth and William Mathews, known as Milton Ferry, to the south; lands of Dr. William Read and the estate of Roger Sanders to the east; and to the west, the Wando River (Charleston County RMC, DB 110, pg. 266).

transferred from John Severance, executor of William Watson, to Ann Prince (Charleston County RMC, DB A6, pg. 26). While unclear at the present, this seems to suggest that the property left by Clement Lemprier was being passed on to his daughter, Ann. A plat drawn at that time shows the tract as cleared fields and the accompanying deed specifies that the property was "vacant land," implying that no plantation settlement was on the tract.

Antebellum Development

It is reported that the Prince family built a settlement on the 350 acres between 1800 and 1824. The 1825 Mills' Atlas fails, however, to reveal any settlement on the parcel (Figure 4; although only subscribers tended to be shown). A far better map is the 1823-1825 Charleston Harbour and the Adjacent Coast and Country (Figure 5), which reveals a rather extensive settlement in the area. Nine structures are shown surrounded by agricultural fields. The vicinity of the cemetery is shown in thick woods, as is much of the country to the east.

In February 1828 the owner, Clement Lempriere Prince (the grandson of Clement

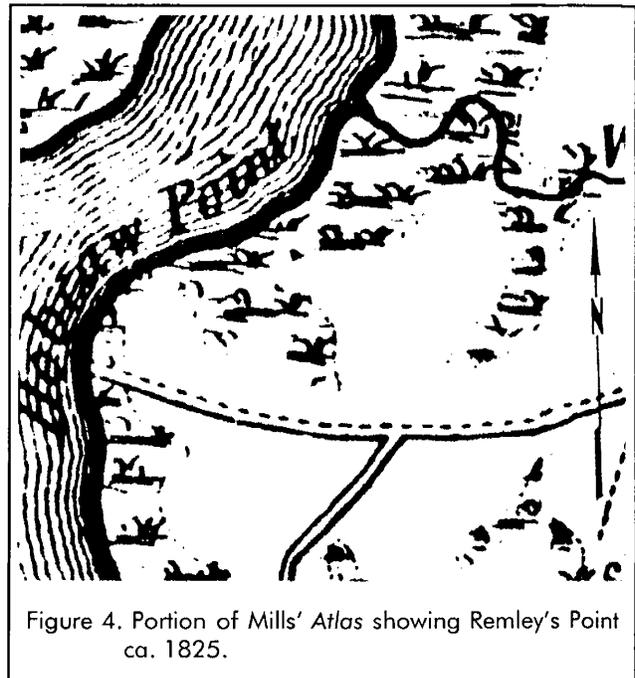


Figure 4. Portion of Mills' Atlas showing Remley's Point ca. 1825.

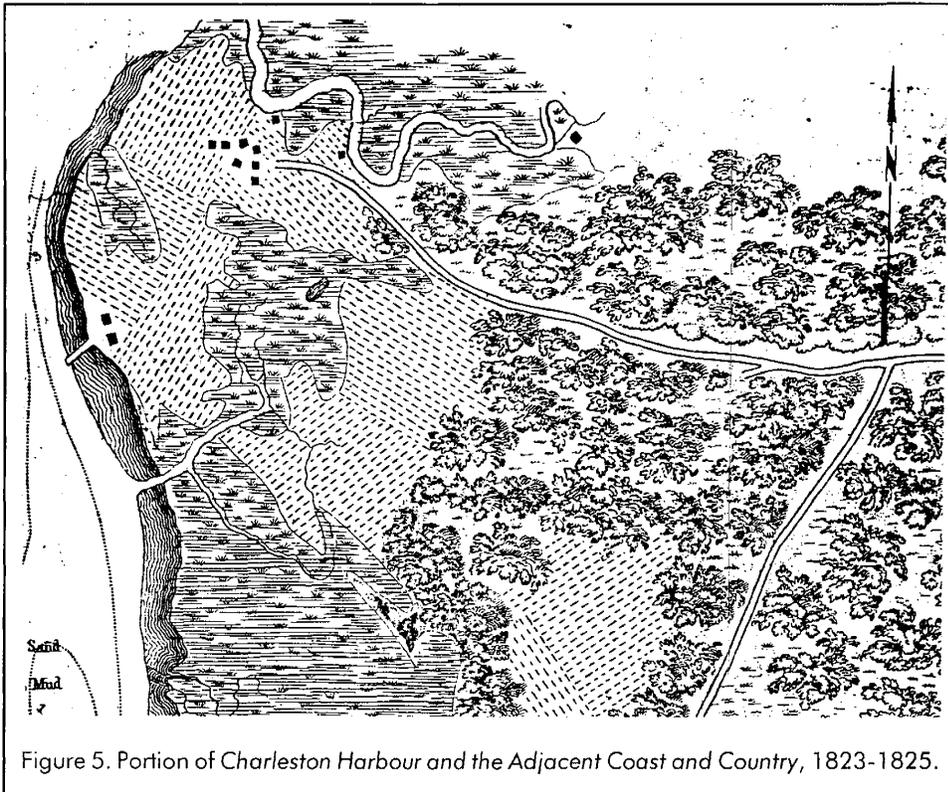


Figure 5. Portion of Charleston Harbour and the Adjacent Coast and Country, 1823-1825.

on the Remley's Point property of Leland and Bonsal. The dates on the stones are 1798 and 1799 (McIvor 1960:10).

Remley is first listed in a Charleston City Directory in 1825 when his occupation is listed as a bricklayer and his residence is shown as 25 Ellery Street. His mother, Mary Remley, however, is first listed in 1819 as a widow, living on Vanderhorst Street. By 1825 her address is listed as 70 Anson Street. She is

Mey, a Charleston merchant residing at 2 Pinckney Street, held the plantation for just over four years, before selling it (at a significant loss — \$1,800) to Paul Remley in April 1836. The meets and bounds were identical to the earlier transaction, but for the first time a cemetery is mentioned for the plantation. The deed specifies that Mey reserved, "to myself and my heirs and family the right of free ingress and egress through the said plantation to the Burial Ground thereon and the right of burying in the said Burial Ground." In addition, this deed reveals that a new survey (which does not seem to exist) found that the plantation contained 614 acres, not the 300 acres previously thought.

While this is the first mention of the cemetery on the parcel, it seems clear that it began at least during the tenure of Prince. McIvor comments that,

the graves of a boy and a girl of the Prince family may still be seen

last listed independently in 1829 at Amherst Street in the Hampstead Neck neighborhood of Charleston (Hagy 1996). In the 1830 Charleston City Directory Remley is listed with a residence at 1 Society Street. Following directories in 1835, 1836, 1837, and 1840 all list Remley as living on Boundary Street, on the Charleston Neck (Hagy 1997). The *List of Taxpayers of the City of Charleston* for 1858 lists Paul Remley as having \$5,000 worth of Charleston real estate, as well as seven slaves, paying a tax of \$93.

The 1840 census for Remley's plantation lists 14 African American slaves, but no whites; suggesting that Remley was an absentee owner who relied on a slave driver, rather than a white overseer. The 1850 agricultural census for Remley's plantation reveals that it produced corn, oats, rice, cotton, wool, peas and beans, potatoes, and sweet potatoes. The livestock present included horses, milk cows, cattle, oxen, sheep, and pigs. The total cash value was listed as \$10,000, suggesting that the plantation was relatively well

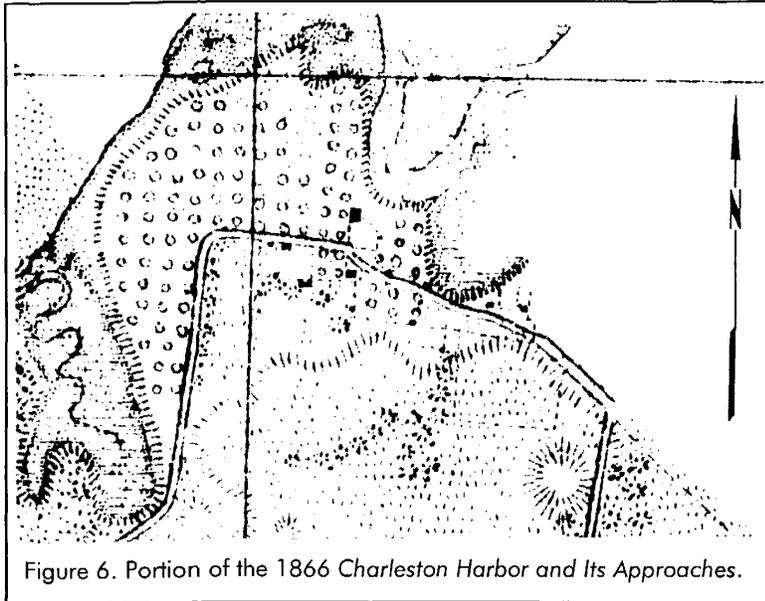


Figure 6. Portion of the 1866 Charleston Harbor and Its Approaches.

reproduced here since they fail to show any development in the project area. The Johnson map, however, does identify the nearby plantation as Remley's and there are several Civil War maps which reveal that a Confederate earthwork was constructed at nearby Hobcaw Point. In fact, this battery was likely on top of the earlier Revolutionary War fortifications. An account of the National Geodetic Survey, National Ocean Survey, reported that in 1889 they established a datum "on the property of John L. Scanlon . . . on a caved in bomb proof of rebel earthworks." By the mid-twentieth century this site had suffered so much erosion that the Confederate earthworks were entirely lost. Today,

the earthwork area is under fill used to create the County boat landing (Trinkley and Fick 2000:2:Site 29).

managed.

Remley died in December 1863, leaving a will that allocated his estate to his mother, Mary E. Remley, and sister, Emma A. Remley. Of perhaps greater interest, his specified that his slave, Philis, and her two children, Charles and Cecile, be under the "control of kind and indulgent owners, who will, whenever the law permits manumit and make them free." He further established a trust "for the use, cloathing and comfort of Philis, Charles and Cecil" (Charleston County WPA Wills Bk. 50, pg. 196). While unstated, this might suggest that Charles and Cecil were Remley's children — an issue worthy of additional investigation. Initial efforts to locate a Philis Remley in the Charleston city directories after 1865 have been unsuccessful.

A map dating to 1866 continues to show the Remley settlement, consisting of a diffuse scatter of about 10 structures — still in the location shown on the earlier 1823-1825 map. The cemetery is just beyond the boundaries of this map, although it appears that it was still in woods (Figure 6). Two additional Civil War maps (the *Map of the Defences of Charleston and Harbor*, dated 1863-1864 and Johnson's 1890 *Map of the Defenses of Charleston Harbor*) are not

### The Charleston Land Company and the Development of Scanlonville

#### The Acquisition of the Land

By 1868 the Courts had appointed Ziba B. Oakes the administrator de bonis non of Paul Remley. The term designates a subsequent administrator of assets which had not been previously distributed and in this case seems to reference the failure to dispose of the estate at the end of the Civil War.

Oakes himself is an interesting historical figure. He was the son of Samuel Oakes and served in his father's various commercial enterprises during the 1830s and 1840s. By the 1850s he was a broker and auctioneer with an office at 7 State Street. R.G. Dunn & Co. (the predecessor of Dunn & Bradstreet) described Oakes as extremely capable and very successful. His primary business, however, was the buying and selling of human flesh — African American slaves (see, for example, Drago 1991). Drago notes that after the Civil War Oakes, with real

estate holdings intact, continued to prosper. He became a local politician, although his primary business was that of insurance and brokering real estate (Drago 1991:5, 11).

Oakes sold the Remley Point tract at auction in 1868 to John L. Scanlon (or Scanlan), the high bidder at \$6,100. Scanlon, too, is an interesting individual. Williamson observes that,

It is improbable that many Negroes acquired land through cooperative purchases, but on at least two occasions, Negroes formed associations for the purchase of lands. In January, 1868, in the lowcountry, F.L. Cardozo described one such operation to his colleagues in the Constitutional Convention: "About one hundred poor colored men of Charleston met together and formed themselves into a Charleston Land Company. They subscribed for a number of shares at \$10 per share, one dollar payable monthly. They have been meeting for a year. Yesterday they purchased 600 acres of land for \$6,600 [sic] that would have sold for \$25,000 or \$50,000 in better times. They would not have been able to buy it had not the owner through necessity been compelled to sell" (Williamson 1965:156).

One similar group acquired 750 acres on Edisto Island, while a third (the Atlantic Land Company) acquired, and later lost, Bull's Island (Bleser 1969:18). Historian Sarah Fick notes that a fourth is thought to have existed, also on Edisto Island (Sarah Fick, personal communication 2001). It is significant that the study area has been singled out as only one of four known cooperative ventures among African American freedmen after the Civil War.

Bleser notes that these cooperatives:

were composed principally of freedmen who worked for hire. Dues were collected; when sufficient capital had been accumulated the members of the society selected a plantation and began the payments, usually spread over a three-year period. The land was distributed equally among the members of the society; each member was free to work as it suited him and could dispose of his crop as he deemed proper. All that was required of a member was the prompt payment of his dues (Bleser 1969:17-18).

#### The Operation of the Company

These cooperatives attracted considerable attention, with articles concerning their activities appearing in the *Charleston News & Courier* where the article was headed "Colored Communism." It went on to describe the events in Charleston, noting that the cooperative not only oversaw issues of farming, but also mediated disputes between subscribers. The group also took care of the sick (*News & Courier*, August 13, 1873, pg. 1; reprinted in the *New York Times*, August 17, 1873, pg. 5). It wouldn't, based on this information, be unreasonable to suspect that they also took care of the dead, providing a burial ground for the good of the group.

A far more detailed article appeared in the *New York Tribune*, where a reporter described the activities at the Charleston Land Company,

Last year some 200 freedmen of Charleston formed a society for getting land and homes of their own. At a sale they bought a plantation of 600 acres on Remley's Point, opposite the city, for which they agreed to pay \$6,000, or \$10 an acre, which seems to me remarkably cheap. A part has been paid for and they have now 18 months to pay the

remainder. Last year they planted 150 acres in cotton, but they got only one bale, because the cotton worm destroyed a part and another part was stolen even after it was picked. This year they have put 30 acres in Sea Island cotton and about the same in corn. I went over in a row boat to see how they were doing. . . . They are doing their own work and are determined to watch the crop night and day until it is saved. The 30 acres of cotton of the Sea Island variety, was cleared of timber during the Winter, and being too poor to buy a team, they dug up all this new ground with their hoes and planted it, and when I arrived I found 20 or more men and women busy hoeing it. The soil is sand and good, but roots thickly fill the ground, and the work is extremely laborious. The day was hot, and sweat ran down their faces in streams. I noticed a man and his wife hoeing together. He was dressed in rags — she was barefoot and without a bonnet, her short hair curled crisply in the hot sun, her dress was short, and it seemed as if she wore no other garment. Faithfully, steadily and expertly they worked together, their hoes rebounding from the tough roots. He said she was his third wife; one of his other wives was dead, and one was in Alabama — sold and sent thither before the war. I asked him if he had any children. No, not one. What, none by his other wives? O, yes; but they were gone long ago, sold away, and he could hear nothing of them.

The article continued with the reporter visiting one of the houses where a woman sat nursing her

child. The house was,

about 20 feet square, with an earth floor; there was a fireplace made of sticks and clay where corn bread was baking, and there were three beds, made box shape of boards, the bedding was of rags and sacks, and some poor garments and bundles hung upon the wall. As I entered she attempted to conceal her soiled and torn dress by a movement with her naked feet, and her hand instinctively hovered near her child's head. While I was looking upon these things the bells in the Charleston steeples across the Ashley River melodiously chimed the hour of noon, and I thought of commerce and of ships, and of noisy factories with their marvelous triumph of human mechanism, and of the bolts of Sea Island cotton goods, ornamented with purple and gold, lying on the counter of cool stores, and measured by clerks with delicate hands and bought by ladies on whom neither rain or the hot sunshine ever fall, for they are connected with that poor mother coming weary, and thirsty, and dusty from the cotton-field to nurse her babe and to eat her dinner of hard corn bread with the hope that one day she and her's may stand upon soil they can call their own (*New York Tribune*, June 30, 1869, pg. 2).

We know from the various deed recitals that initially the Charleston Land Company was incorporated on July 24, 1868 under an order of the Court of Common Pleas for Charleston District. It was again incorporated by an Act of the Legislature in December 1884 for a period of 21 years. Then, on July 1, 1908 the Charleston Land

Company's charter was renewed in perpetuity from the Secretary of State.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to identify the Charleston Land Company in the Charleston County Clerk of Court's Petitions and Charters for Incorporation, 1868-1898 (SCDAH, L10011). This is not the first time the document was unsuccessfully sought. A June 30, 1908 letter from the law firm of Nathons & Singler to the S.C. Secretary of State reported, "we have been unable to find in the Clerk of Courts Office here the original charter granted in 1866 and therefore could not ascertain what the amount of the capital stock was" (SCDAH, Dead Domestic Charters, File 1950c). While this document suggests an incorporation in 1866, everything else suggests 1868 — the letter may simply be in error about the date.

The charter, however, was renewed by Act 424 during the Regular Session of the S.C. Legislature in 1884 (being renewed on December 23, 1884). At that time the officers of the organization were listed as John Scanlon, David Bracy, Joseph Parker, John L. Renwick, Samuel L. Grant, and Henry Willaston (Anonymous 1885:699). The charter was again renewed on July 1, 1908 (SCDAH, Secretary of State, Corporate Charters Division, Private Corporate Charter Renewals, Vol. J [1897-1955], pg. 40). At that time directors included A.N. Turner, A.S. Owens, and A. Robinson and the company listed capital stock of \$5,000.

#### The Company's President and Founder

Thus far we know much less about the founder of this cooperative. While most of the legal documents (the exception are many of the original deeds for property) spell the name "Scanlon," no such individual has been identified in any of the city directories for Charleston. What we have found is a John Scanlan, who first appears about 1878 when he is listed as a "colored carpenter" working for C.E. Cordray, a house and ship joiner at 3 Pritchard Street. Scanlan's residence was listed as 26 Calhoun Street. By 1882, the address is listed as 36

Calhoun and a Robert Scanlan is shown at this same address, suggesting that Robert might be a son (a grave for Robert Scanlan [1854-1902] is present in the Remley Point Cemetery). Robert is shown as occupied at the works of C.A. Scanlan, a white shipsmith on Concord Street. By 1885 Robert Scanlan has his own residence at 74 Calhoun and is a blacksmith at C.A. Scanlan, while John is still listed as a ship carpenter, with a residence at 229 Calhoun Street. From 1895 on, there are no black Scanlans listed as living in Charleston — suggesting that they had moved to Mount Pleasant and were living in Scanlonville. While perhaps confusing, we will use the spellings "Scanlan" and "Scanlon" interchangeably, depending on the spelling used in the original document.

Prior to the Civil War we have found no listing for a Robert, although the Free Negro Capitation Tax Books for Charleston do list a Sarah Scanlan from at least 1850 on (SCDAH, Free Negro Capitation Tax Books, S126016). Early on she is listed as living on St. Philip Street on the "Neck," although by 1852 she is shown as living at Coming Street, near Bogard. Additional research may help determine if there is a relationship between the two individuals.

#### Scanlonville and Its Organization

A plat of the property was prepared in February 1870 (Charleston RMC, PB D, pg. 180; Figure 7). Identified as *Plan of a Portion of the Tract of Land Known as Remley Point Laid Out in Lots and Now Called Scanlonville*, the plat reveals that only the northern portion of the 614 acres were actually shown. A series of streets were laid out, with avenues running east-west and beginning with Second Avenue in the north and continuing to Ninth Avenue at the southwestern edge. Streets were laid in running north-south, from First Street on the extreme west to Sixth Street at the east.

These streets encompassed blocks typically 900 feet east-west by 400 feet north-south and containing 18 lots, each 100 feet in width and 200 feet in depth. The roads and avenues were both 60 feet in width, although the plan also

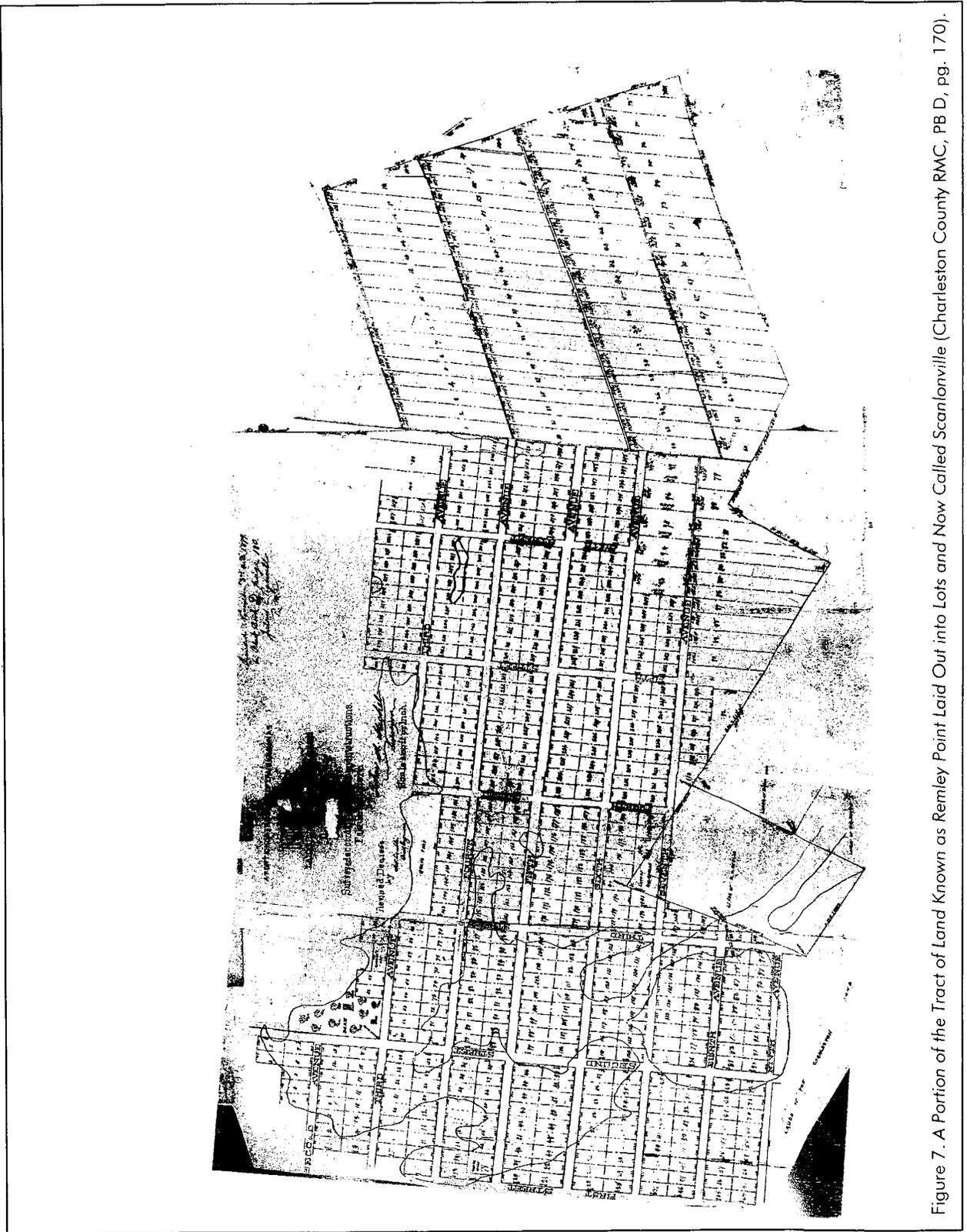


Figure 7. A Portion of the Tract of Land Known as Remley Point Laid Out into Lots and Now Called Scanlonville (Charleston County RMC, PB D, pg. 170).

reveals that there were alleyways of about 20 feet in some areas. These 100 by 200 foot lots were numbered 1 through 398, with numbers 381, 382, 390, and 391 not used. These 394 lots, because they are numbered in black on the plat, became known as "black lots." Also present are lots, number in red from 1 through 111. These, while in order, appear to fill in vacant lots; regardless, they have become known as "red lots." Finally, there are also 100 "farm lots," much larger than what might be considered "town lots." There are also four farm lots given half numbers (i.e., 18½, 58½, 59½, and 78½) because of their smaller size. There is also one lot identified on the plat as "Michel's Lot," with no additional information.

Scanlonville also contained several common tracts — what might be termed amenities, today. These included a "Park" at the western edge of the development. Shown as in large trees, there was also a house and a barn on the "park." While additional research is necessary, this may represent a remnant of the Remley settlement. To the southeast is a large area, identified as the "Grave Yard." This feature is situated on the marsh edge and, at the time of the plat, measured 900 feet east-west by about 200 feet north-south. Although the grave yard likely represents the original burial place used by owners since Prince, it seems that the space was significantly increased and was intended to be used by the freedmen who were subscribers to the Charleston Land Company.

#### The Lot Owners

A few deeds have been identified for the early period of Scanlonville, filed in Berkeley County (which use to include this portion of Charleston County). One, dated 1893, is of special interest since it incorporates the "Class Union Society No. Nine" "in the Village of Scanlonville" (Berkeley County Clerk of Court, DB C3, pg. 571). The incorporation notes that the organization is charitable and it almost certainly represents an African American benevolent organization. While never studied here in South Carolina, Trinkley et al. (1999) have examined

such organizations — and the functions they served — in Petersburg, Virginia. These organizations were primarily intended to provide mutual assistance, although like similar white groups — temperance societies, labor unions, even fraternal life insurance (and burial) firms — some incorporated secret or mystical rites into their programs. This, too, is another area where additional research would be of considerable interest.

One early deed, from 1870 but not recorded until 1885, sold Lot 174 for \$16.50 to John L. Fennick (Berkeley County Clerk of Court, DB C1, pg. 407). Another deed, dated 1885, sold Lot 21 to David Bracy for \$16.50, and also noted that Bracy owned Lots 20 and 22 (Berkeley County Clerk of Court, DB C1, pg. 285). As previously discussed, Bracy was one of the original directors of the Charleston Land Company. These deeds reveal that the President of the Charleston Land Company was John L. Scanlon, while the Secretary and Treasurer was James B. Spencer.

Table 1 is a list of individuals with deeds for different lots in Scanlonville or Scanlanville though 1898. It is almost certain that this isn't a complete list, nor have we attempted to go through each deed. We believe, however, that many (perhaps all) of these owners — poor African American farmers — took advantage of Scanlonville's cemetery. This list, consequently, provides an initial starting point to identify those which might be buried in the cemetery. In addition, the list is itself instructive.

For those deeds where we have obtained dates, it is clear that the bulk of the Company's property which was ultimately sold, was distributed early in its history. In fact, 35% of the lots with known sell dates were sold the first year of sales, in 1870 and only 17% of the lots were sold in the twentieth century. When purchase months for the nineteenth century are examined, the summer was, by far, the most common season for African Americans to acquire lots at Scanlonville, with 77 (or 44%) of the 173 lots acquired between June and August. The remaining purchases were spread evenly between the fall (32), winter (30), and

SCANLONVILLE: THE COMMUNITY AND CEMETERY

Table 1. Lot Owners in Scanlonville, 1870-1930

Name	Date of Deed	DB/page
David Bracy	1/23/1871	P15/731 (marsh)
Smart Holms	1/24/1870	P15/819 (Lot 121)
Stephen Palmer	1/19/1871	P15/775 (Lot 186)
John B. Wright	5/31/1870	P15/841 (Lot 169)
David Bracy	7/8/1870	P15/395 (Lot 20)
Sarah A. Drayton	10/14/1875	S16/541 (Lot 181)
R.C. Palmer	1/8/1873	Q16/53, 54 (Lots E, D)
David Bracy	11/21/1872	F16/365 (Lot 71)
Darcus Richardson	9/15/1870	A16/195 (Lot 264)
John Price	8/8/1870	A16/323 (Lot 67)
Benjamin Stephens	1/19/1871	A16/142 (Lot 310)
Abe Jefferson	8/7/1871	A16/153 (Lot 397)
John B. Mitchell	3/1/1871	A16/187 (Lot 120)
Darcus Richardson	5/15/1871	A16/194 (Lot 53)
Benjamin Ashe	8/3/1870	A16/163 (Lot 182)
Simon S. Gadsden	1/19/1871	A16/348 (Lot 339)
Susan Lacombe	7/8/1870	B17/242, 243 (Lots 185, 146)
Francis Allen	3/18/1873	L17/586 (Lot 30)
L.M. Beebe	3/17/1878	L17/284 (wharf)
A.J. Wigg	3/14/1873	G17/253 (Lot 305)
S.McR. Wigg	3/19/1873	G17/244 (Lot 140)
Isaac Hutchinson	8/1/1870	G17/254 (Lot 371)
Julia A. Johnson	9/28/1870	G17/213 (Lot 5)
Stephen J. Maxwell	2/24/1871	G17/56 (Lot 131)
B.F. Jackson	9/8/1870	G17/214, 215 (Lots 122, 254)
John F. Brown	7/8/1870	G17/216 (Lot 54)
Isaac Hutchinson	8/2/1870	G17/217 (Lot 270)
Henry West	6/24/1870	G17/218 (Lot 52)
George W. Martin	6/8/1870	G17/252 (Lot 275)
Henry West	6/24/1870	G17/212 (Lot 283)
Henry West	6/24/1870	G17/212 [sic]
Charles Simons	8/3/1870	G17/211 (Lot 320)
Daniel Brown	2/24/1870	G17/324 (Lot 149)
John G. Jones	2/10/1880	A18/155 (Lot 173)
Dianah Jones	8/19/1870	H16/392 (Lot 183)
Mary H. Sumers	9/18/1870	H16/392

Name	Date of Deed	DB/page
Daniel I. Johnson	6/8/1870	P15/417 (Lot 7)
Samuel H. Ready (Reddy)	7/8/1870	P15/517 (Lot 134)
James L. Johnson	—	P15/309 (Lot 23)
Paris Giles	5/31/1870	P15/403, 405 (Lots 130, 172)
Henry M. Emerly	5/31/1870	P15/289 (Lot 163)
David Z. Duncan	6/24/1870	P15/301 (Lot 269)
Robert Smith	6/8/1870	P15/279 (Lot 29)
John Clinton	8/8/1870	P15/379 (Lot 398)
Diana E. Emerly	6/8/1870	P15/287 (Lot 204)
Alexander H.L. Brail	6/8/1870	P15/231, 235
Fanny [Fannie] Northrop	6/24/1870	P15/367 (Lot 248)
Jno. A. Grant	6/24/1870	P15/317 (Lot 268)
Andrew Small	7/8/1870	P15/293 (Lot 226)
Thomas Whilden	6/8/1870	P15/299 (Lot 35)
Joseph Parker	6/8/1870	P15/441 (Lot 68)
Cesar Manigault	9/18/1870	P15/445 (Lot 51)
Joseph A. Ready (Reddy)	8/19/1870	P15/431 (Lot 218)
Harriet Miller	6/24/1870	P15/331 (Lot 160)
Abb Jefferson	8/8/1870	P15/363 (Lot 327)
Alice Northrop	6/24/1870	P15/365 (Lot 145)
David Bracy	6/8/1870	P15/369 (Lot 301)
William Pinckney	9/17/1873	Q16/77 (Lot 293)
William Boggs	6/21/1870	P15/291 (Lot 24)
Jane Jackson	6/24/1870	P15/453 (Lot 355)
Sarah Fraser	5/31/1870	P15/447 (Lot 364)
William Jackson (Johnson)	12/28/1870	P15/609 (Lot 382)
Joseph Hayward	11/24/1870	P15/635 (Lot 1)
Sipoie Middleton	8/3/1870	P15/605 (Lot 350)
William Boregs	12/28/1870	P15/607 (Lot 28)
George D. Jennings	9/28/1870	P15/461 (Lot 47)
Alexander Robinson	8/8/1870	P15/529 (Lot 366)
C.A. Readyfoot (Reddy)	8/8/1870	P15/413 (Lot 284)
John Johnson	8/19/1870	P15/397 (Lot 389)
James Mitchell	9/28/1870	P15/617 (Lot 214)
Benjamin Stevens	6/8/1870	P15/561 (Lot 361)
James Wyles	7/18/1870	P15/545 (Lot 359)

HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

Table 1. Lot Owners in Scanlonville, 1870-1930, cont.

Name	Date of Deed	DB/page
James Wyles	9/18/1870	P15/543 (Lot 360)
Alex Robinson	11/14/1870	P15/531 (Lot 4)
Carolina Robinson	10/8/1870	P15/535 (Lot 242)
John Williams	6/24/1870	P15/533 (Lot 50)
James Jones	11/14/1870	P15/663 (Lot 296)
Alexander Robinson	7/18/1870	P15/523 (Lot 18)
Alexander Robinson	8/3/1870	P15/525, 527 (Lots 365, 153)
Samuel Johnson	7/18/1870	P15/409 (Lot 379)
John F. Webb	9/18/1870	P15/513 (Lot 265)
William Howan (Howard)	10/8/1870	P15/443 (Lot 49)
Samuel C. Grant	5/5/1870	P15/471 (Lot 256)
Samuel C. Grant	5/31/1870	P15/473 (Lot 77)
Elizabeth Dunbar	3/3/1880	E18/161 (Lot 206)
Francis Allan	3/18/1873	D18/38 (Lot 380)
Primus Green	8/3/1870	D16/293 (Lot 208)
Primus Green	8/3/1870	D16/302 (Lot 48)
Augustamus Royal	2/19/1871	D16/147 (Lot 314)
George Owens	3/21/1872	N16/41 (Lot 318)
William Maxwell	8/7/1871	R16/228 (Lot 155)
William Maxwell	2/23/1871	R16/227 (Lot 338)
James Levy	9/21/1871	R16/277 (Lot 14)
B.F. Jackson	7/8/1870	G17/214
Alfred R. Wigg	3/18/1873	G17/242 (Lot 345)
Francis Moultrie	7/28/1877	G17/305 (Lot 194)
Lizzie Hayward	4/19/1876	G17/299 (Lot 317)
James D. Price	9/18/1870	R22/610 (Lot 395)
J.L. Fenwick	8/8/1870	A30/269 (Lot 174)
Celia & Cellia Nesbit	1/10/1880	A38/497 (Lot 175)
Simon King	7/15/1884	B20/370 (Lot 162)
Grace Chaplin	9/11/1884	B20/370 (Lot 314)
Fannie Jackson	5/1/1885	A39/18 (Lot 324)
L.M. Beebee	5/16/1888	X20/87 (lease)
Francis J. Moultrie	8/10/1888	A30/600 (Lot 94)
Thomas Parker	5/14/1892	A35/211 (Lot 54)
Macon Hamilton	8/20/1892	A38/529 (Lot 332)
Macon Hamilton	6/24/1893	A35/262 (Lot 78)

Name	Date of Deed	DB/page
Macon Hamilton	—	A35/263 (Lot 6)
Peter Mitchell	7/15/1893	A35/270 (Lot 2)
James Legare	8/17/1893	A35/276 (Lot 17)
William A. Michel	6/2/1894	A36/46 (Lot 31)
Daniel Webster	1/31/1895	A22/400 (Lot 88, ½ of 87)
J.L.C. Smalls (Small)	10/13/1896	E23/56 (Lot 188)
Anthony German	1/30/1897	E23/232 (Lot 35)
John T. Brown	11/23/1897	Q22/145 (Lots 8, 9, 10)
Richard Duncan	3/12/1892	C23/171
Macon Hamilton	8/19/1896	O23/39 (Lot 7)
Henry Schachle	10/19/1898	H23/265 (Lot 37)
Charity Simmon, al.	2/21/1898	O23/38 (Lot 51)
James Legare	12/23/1898	O23/45
Catherine McKelvey	3/12/1892	C23/396 (Lot 326)
Albert Johnson	8/31/1882	C23/400 (Lot 60)
Susan Mayor	9/29/1900	O23/293 (Lot 245)
Clarence Brown	10/29/1898	O23/339 (Lot 251)
Clarence Brown	10/29/1898	O23/336 (Lot 89)
Clarence Brown	10/29/1898	O23/340 (Lot 300)
Clarence Brown	10/29/1898	O23/337 (Lot 267)
Clarence Brown	10/29/1898	O23/338 (Lot 73)
Robert Loverly	7/9/1901	O22/262 (Lot 84)
Betsy Parker	7/14/1899	Q22/263 (Lot 62 S)
Andrew Loundes	7/14/1899	Q22/261 (Lot 62 N)
R.H. Trotter	5/30/1902	J24/111 (Lots 92, 110, 111, 269, 270, 271, 273)
R.H. Trotter	5/30/1902	J24/112 (Lot 76)
Robert Holmes Trotter	9/30/1902	X23/591 (Lots 62, 63)
Robert Holmes	8/4/1882	X23/590 (Lot 63)
Robert Holmes	8/4/1882	X23/589 (Lot 62)
John T. Brown	12/16/1898	J24/160
Samuel Grant	4/7/1897	J24/324 (Lot 40)
Samuel Grant	4/7/1897	J24/325 (Lot 203)
Solomon Piot	5/25/1900	N24/122 (Lot 396)
John B. Spearing	3/18/1873	U24/248 (Lot 329)

SCANLONVILLE: THE COMMUNITY AND CEMETERY

Table 1. Lot Owners in Scanlonville, 1870-1930, cont.

Name	Date of Deed	DB/page
Martha Simms (Simons)	2/11/1896	N24/253 (Lot 375)
Margaret Fordham	3/16/1907	T24/244 (Lot 61½)
Dehar Williams	10/10/1884	H25/263 (Lot 312)
Margaret McAlpin	11/26/1902	N24/306 (Lots 49, 79)
Margaret McAlpin	12/7/1902	N24/307 (Lots 75, 50)
Daniel D. McAlpin	3/17/1885	N24/309 (Lot 385)
Joseph Miller	8/17/1895	N24/311
Irene Jackson	8/18/1900	N24/312 (Lot 20)
Irene Jackson	3/27/1907	N24/313 (Lot 200)
B. Fordham	4/7/1897	N24/319 (Lot 22)
Adam Coleman	12/21/1898	O25/9 (Lot 52)
Slyvia Ann Smith	1/9/1903	O25/17 (Lot 362)
Isaac Washington ol.	—/—/1909	O25/140 (Lot 46)
Sons & Daughters of Elect	4/25/1910	O25/188 (Lot 374)
Rosa J. Smith	10/26/1901	O25/263 (Lot 321)
Robert H. Scanlan	1/25/1891	Y25/119 (Lot 11)
S.A. Roberts		Y24/306 (Lots 36, 38)
Tobias Scott		T25/91 (Lot 335)
Arthur L. Dummett		O25/345 (Lot 8)
John I. Scanlan, Jr.		Y25/121 (Lot 19)
William S. Scanlan		Y24/327 (Lots 15, 16, 39, 40)
Joseph H. Bailey		F26/13
Sarah Jane Lucas		H26/63
William A. Michel		W25/288
Andrew Lowndes		H26/145
Daniel D. McAlpin		R26/168 (Lot 139)
Daniel McAlpin		R26/168 (Lot 34)
Daniel McAlpin		R26/170 (Lot 167)
Charles Mollette		G26/233 (Lot 78½)
Anna Anderson		O26/114 (Lot 59)
Hardy Green	9/16/1909	O26/115 (Lot 12)
Hardy Green	7/14/1903	O26/116 (Lot 11)
Hardy Green	9/3/1904	O26/117 (Lot 13)
Smart Holmes	9/16/1909	O26/126 (Lot 70)

Name	Date of Deed	DB/page
Christopher C. King	6/28/1898	R26/276 (Lot 44)
Celestine King	6/28/1890	R26/274 (Lot 369)
Celestine King	6/28/1890	R26/273 (Lot 370)
Margaret German	6/10/1904	O26/157
Sarah Roberts	6/7/1912	O26/162 (Lots 31, 33)
Margaret McAlpin	8/18/1913	W26/38 (Lots 49, 75, 77, 78, 79, 80, 76)
John L. Scanlon	7/26/1888	Y25/369 (Lot 19)
Irene Jackson	11/6/1913	R26/469 (Lot 20)
Louis Webster	8/18/1902	O26/248 (Lot 61)
Daniel Webster	5/21/1903	O26/248 (Lot 158)
Daniel Webster	5/21/1903	O26/250 (Lot 19)
Daniel Webster	5/21/1903	O26/249 (Lot 19)
Danile Webster		O26/294 (Lot 85)
Daniel Webster		O26/295 (Lot 210)
Katy Washington		H26/270 (Lot 274)
Susan Scanlan		H26/276 (Lots 12, 25)
George Wesley		H26/280 (Lot 74)
Hardy Green		X27/28 (Lots 150, 151)
W.A. Leland		X27/43
Daniel Webster		W26/114 (Lot 216)
Daniel Webster		W26/115 (Lot 215)
Emanuel Lawrence		X27/52 (Lot 3, ½ of 4)
E.A. Forest		A27/53 (Lot 99, 100)
Morrie Small		W26/116 (Lot 221)
Judy Lewis		X27/54 (Lot 5, ½ of 4)
Daniel Webster	4/29/1893	X27/55
Thomas Frazer	8/8/1899	X27/51
Thomas Frazer	8/8/1899	X27/50
Thomas Winthrop	6/18/1870	W27/116
Robert S. Scanlan	2/21/1893	H26/294
David Bracy	9/3/1904	H26/296
David Bracy	6/19/1897	H26/295
Estelle Bailey	8/20/1914	H26/301

HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

Table 1. Lot Owners in Scanlonville, 1870-1930, cont.

Name	Date of Deed	DB/page
Rebecca S. Rivers	3/18/1873	W27/134
Susan Smalls	1/18/1898	X27/89
Lee Royall	12/23/1915	X27/110
Sallie Robinson	1/27/1910	X27/112
George F. Washington	1/2/1914	H28/23
W.A. Leland	3/19/1917	X27/173
Thomas Winthrop		X27/176 (Lot 83)
Daniel Webster		H28/108 (Lot 75)
Malley Brisbane		W26/653 (Lot 115)
Daniel Walter Maxwell		X27/184 (Lot 266)
Christopher Simmons		X27/191 (Lot 72)
Charles Williams		H28/116 (Lot 311)
C.S. Wesley		H28/122 (Lot 376)
C.S. Wesley		H28/123 (Lot 377)
Lewis Kenecke		H28/124 (Lot 75)
Albert Mack		X27/205 (Lot 91)
David Ghorum		N28/286 (Lot 282)
Hardy Green		N28/285 (Lot 49)
Rose Johnson		W27/595 (Lot 195)
Rose Johnson		W27/596 (Lot 223)
Hardy Green	1/2/1914	U28/3 (Lot 34)
Class Union #9	3/24/1893	H28/152 (Lot 332)
Alfred T. Brisbane	8/3/1870	W27/605 (Lot 211)
Samuel C. Grant	8/31/1882	R28/129 (Lot 16)
Samuel C. Grant	8/31/1882	R28/130 (Lot 17)
David Bracy	4/7/1897	X27/222 (Lots 31, 33)
Sons & Daughters of Noah, Council No. 3	—/—/1917	X27/238 (Lot 24)
Hardy Green	—/—/1917	X27/237 (Lot 97)
Hardy Green	—/—/1917	X27/236 (Lot 43)
Elijah Green	—/—/1917	X27/235 (Lot 53)
George Green	—/—/1917	X27/244 (Lot 45)
Joe Stoney, adm.	12/15/1870	X27/248 (Lot 323)
Susan A Graham, al.	12/28/1870	W27/642 (Lot 255)
Julia Carroll	6/19/1897	H28/216 (Lot 143)
Nancy Wright	8/13/1896	H28/214 (½ Lot 41)

Name	Date of Deed	DB/page
Nellie Porcher		U28/82 (½ Lot 41)
John Hart		H28/215 (Lot 83)
Louis McBride		H28/281 (Lot 48)
Arthur Glover		S28/263 (Lot 63)
Hester Scott		T28/271 (Lot 292)
June Williams		H28/326 (Lot 64)
Adam Smith		R28/685 (Lot 313)
London Flood		X27/332 (Lot 123)
Susan Blake		G30/239 (Lot 178)
Louisa Murray		E29/322 (Lot 339)
James Saners		E29/351 (Lot 59½)
Louisa Bryan		D31/241 (Lot 401)
Patty Broughton		Z30/104 (Lot 255)
Catherine Plummeau		Z30/103 (Lot 353)
Andrew Maybank		X30/205 (Lot 32)
Edward Wilson	7/14/1903	Z31/107 (Lots 331, 332)
Philip Robinson	3/19/1927	Z31/235 (Lot 103)
George Smalls, al.	9/7/1928	B34/312 (Lot 260)
Henrietta Mashborn	3/21/1888	F35/228 (Lot 242)
Henrietta Mashborn	3/21/1888	F35/229 (Lot 243)
Nelson Price	2/27/1930	J34/199 (Lots 147, 148, 149 & marsh lands)
Robert Scanlon	3/21/1930	J34/290 (Lot 237)
Alexander W.L. Broil	6/8/1870	P15/231 (Lot 76)
Alexander W.L. Broil	6/8/1870	P15/233 (Lot 247)
Alexander W.L. Broil	6/8/1870	P15/235 (Lot 277)

Table 2. Stockholders of The Charleston Land Company, as of July 1908

Name	Number of Shares
Rosa J. Smith	1
Emanuel Lawrence	1
James H. Rudolph	3
Charles Williams	1
A.N. Turner	1
Robert H. Trotter	2
D.Z. Duncan	1
Hardy Green	1
A.S. Owens	1
Estate of Samuel C. Grant	7
Estate of David Bracy	2
Estate of Edward A. Forrest	1
Sarah Williams	1
Estate of Thomas Fraser	1
Estate of S.R. Pinckney	1
Alexander Robinson	1
Estate of Thomas Palmer	2
Estate of H.W. Martin	1
Estate of D.D. McAlpine	3

Name	Number of Shares
Estate of John L. Scanlon	1
Estate of James Wyles	1
S. Johnson	1
A.R. Wigg	1
A. Coleman	1
A Winthrop	1
F.J. Moultrie	1
Charles Symonds	1
Estate of Paris Giles	1
Estate of Isaac Hutchinson	1
Estate of Isaac Pinckney	1
Estate of Jno. J. Johnson	1
Martha Nell (prev. George D. Jennings)	1
Sarah Roberts (Mrs. S.A. Drayton)	1
Estate of Daniel Webster	1
Estate of F. Gaillard	1
S.W. Bennett	1
Sarah Webster	4

spring (34). It may be that the summer was viewed as a good time to leave tenancy and begin to invest in your own land and future — the scheduling of these purchases is yet another field of inquiry for investigators.

#### The 1908 Legal Action

By 1908 John Scanlon had died, the company needed to be rechartered, and there were additional, unresolved, issues of operation. On March 18, 1908 the known stockholders of the company, including A. Robinson, A. Winthrop, A.S. Owens, Louis Webster, C. Williams, H. Green,

Henrietta Grant, Ella Frazer, E.A. Forest, D.Z. Duncan, Mrs. J.W. Smith, Mary Martin, Sarah A. Roberts, Sarah H. Williams, A.N. Turner, Thomas Palmer, Charles Aymonds, A. Coleman, Martha Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Nancy Mack, J.C. Lawrence, S.W. Bennett, Katherine H. Perrin, Mrs. Rosa Ferguson, and F.J. Moultrie filed suit against the Charleston Land Co. "and John Doe and Richard Roe, unknown stockholders" (Charleston County Clerk of Court, Metallic Case 184, No. 7).

The suit alleged — and the company agreed in all cases — that the plaintiffs were the known stockholders; that about 1868 "certain

HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

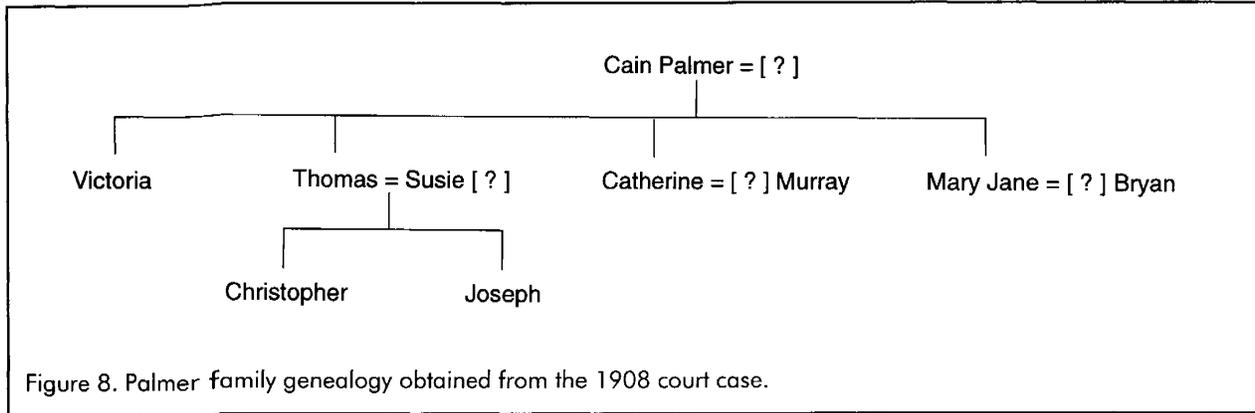


Figure 8. Palmer family genealogy obtained from the 1908 court case.

parties whose names for the most part are unknown to these plaintiffs" formed a "voluntary association known as the Charleston Land Company;" and that the Company acquired Remleys Point and by 1870 divided the property, selling a "large number" of lots. It continued to point out that the company was incorporated and that certificates of stock were issued to each stockholder. Unfortunately, those records were "destroyed by fire" and "no records from which it can be ascertained who are stockholders" could be located (eventually a book of lot holders, a cash book, and a minutes book were identified, although we have not been able to find these documents in any local repository today). The suit stipulated that the Company found itself in a position of needing to mortgage a portion of the property in order to "rebuild its wharf." Such a mortgage, however, could not be legally issued without a vote of the stockholders — who were unknown. Consequently, the suit requests that all those with old certificates be required to retire them and that new certificates should be issued. In addition, the suit alleged that John L. Scanlan had died "without having executed a conveyance of said property to the said Charleston Land Company" and they asked the Court to ensure such a conveyance was entered.

Beginning in March and running for six weeks, an ad appeared in the *Charleston News and Courier* notifying potential stockholders of the suit and asking them to come forward. The case was referred to F.K. Myers, Master, on June 6, 1908. By June 23, 1908 the Master had issued a

report (with supplemental reports dated June 25 and 27 and July 21, 1908) with a decree being issued on July 2, 1908.

The Master noted that while a deed of conveyance for the property from Scanlan had been found among the Company's papers, it had never been executed. A question of some interest, of course, is how one became a "member" as opposed to a "property owner." While the status of a property owner was unknown to most African Americans after the Civil War, that of membership was likely a far less alien concept, with the closest analogy being membership in a religious organization, or membership to one of many benevolent organizations. It appears that the two were combined at Scanlonville. One was an owner of a piece of property, but "membership" in the Company likely included other benefits, such as use of the wharf, the park, and the cemetery, as well as ensured assistance in times of need. Table 2 lists the stockholders recognized by the Master as a result of extensive questioning and based on individuals able to produce evidence of old certificates. It appears that everyone who held stock certificates also held land, although there seems to be no correlation between the number of shares and the number of lots. Likewise, it doesn't seem that all lot owners, at least by 1908, were also members of the company.

There are many possible explanations for these differences. It may be that land ownership was a requirement for participating in the company, although the participation wasn't

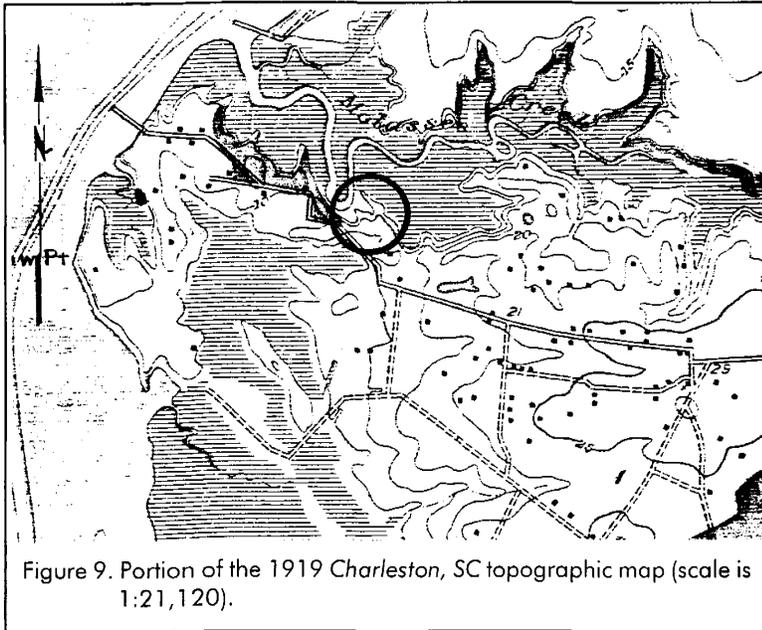


Figure 9. Portion of the 1919 Charleston, SC topographic map (scale is 1:21,120).

required. Alternatively, it may be that by 1908 the association between ownership and the Company was no longer clear and that as the Company lands were transformed into a relatively stable neighborhood, activities previously supported by the Company were being tended to by churches, fraternal or benevolent organizations, or neighbors.

One of the features identified at Scanlonville during the hearings was a wharf. In 1878 the Charleston Land Company granted rights to L.M. Beebe to build a wharf and lease it to the Company (Charleston County RMC, DB L17, pg. 284). This was assigned to Cyrus G. Beebe. In 1888 the Company again issued a deed to L.M. Beebe for the rights to build and lease for 10 years a wharf (Charleston County RMC, DB X20, pg. 87).

The Master also found that repairs to the wharf would cost about \$1,000 and that the necessary funds were to be borrowed from C.C. Leslie, based on a deed of conveyance from the Master to clear the title to the Company's property (Charleston County RMC, DB H25, pg. 497).

The cemetery reservation first found in the

conveyance from Mey to Remley is repeated, "the right of free ingress and egress through the said plantation to the Burial Ground thereon and the right of burying in the said Burial Ground being reserved to the heirs and family of the said Clement S. Prince." The deed also notes that the conveyance spares and excepts a series of lots — almost certainly indicating those lots which the Charleston Land Company had sold prior to 1908. Those lots are: D, E, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, 28, 30, 31, 35, 35 [sic], 47, 48, 49, 49 [sic], 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 54 [sic], 61½, 67, 68, 70, 75, 76, 76 [sic], 77, 77 [sic], 78, 78 [sic], 79, 80, ½ of 87, 88, 94, 120, 121, 122, 130, 131, 134, 136, 140, 145, 146, 149, 153, 155, 160, 162, 163, 169, 172, 173, 174, 175, 181, 182, 183, 185, 188, 189, 194, 204, 206, 214, 218, 226, 242, 247, 248, 254, 256, 264, 265, 268, 269, 270, 275, 277, 283, 284, 291, 293, 296, 298, 301, 305, 310, 310 [sic], 312, 314, 315, 317, 318, 320, 324, 327, 334, 338, 339, 345, 350, 355, 359, 359 [sic], 360, 361, 364, 365, 366, 375, 379, 380, 382, 389, 392, 395, and 398.

Unfortunately, a number of lot numbers are repeated, likely representing the difference between the "black" and "red" lot numbers, although no such distinction is made in the deed. Consequently, while we can observe that at least 133 lots out of the original 605 were sold, we can't be certain, based on this deed, which lots were sold and which remained open. Regardless, it seems that the Charleston Land Company was less than a success, given that in 40 years just slightly over a fifth of the lots had been sold (or subscribers had been able to pay off on their debt).

Testimony offered in the 1908 case also provides useful genealogical information. From the records, for example, we learn that Henrietta Grant was the wife of Samuel C. Grant and, while his unnamed brothers and sisters were dead by

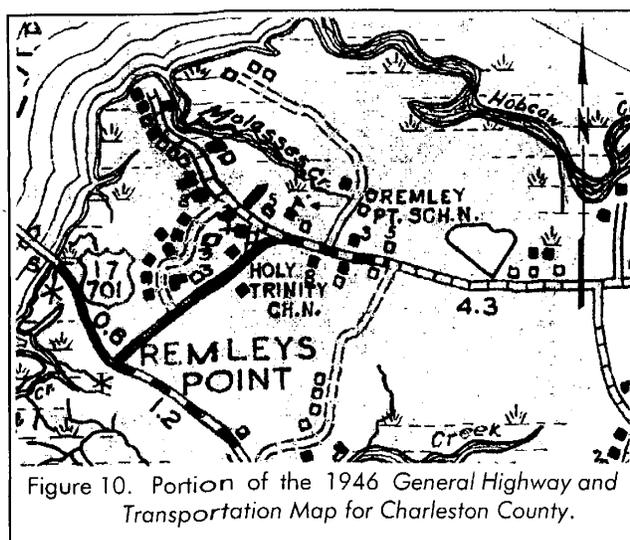


Figure 10. Portion of the 1946 General Highway and Transportation Map for Charleston County.

that time, the documents list a number of children still living in Savannah, Georgia. We also learn that Rosa Ferguson was the daughter of David Bracy and that Bracy's wife had remarried, becoming Jane Hamilton. Figure 8 illustrates the level of detail which is available in the court papers.

The 1919 *Charleston* topographic map (Figure 9) shows that settlement in Scanlonville was perhaps more intensive than the deed would suggest. Although the road network is not well established, there are a number of structures — over 50 — in the general vicinity. The cemetery is not designated on this map. We have identified two plats of property actually sold by the Charleston Land Company in the McCrady plats. One, Plat 843, is dated September 27, 1909 and shows a lot belonging to Andrew Lowndes. Situated on Fifth Street, the plat reveals a house, as well as a store, indicating that the African American community was, even at this point, self-sufficient. Another, plat 855, has the same date and shows the lot surveyed for Trinity AME Church. This plat shows Sixth Street to the south and an alleyway along the east side, which also extends to the northeast. On the lot is the church, as well as a school house — revealing yet another dimension to the African American community.

### The Depression and the Charleston Land Company

By the 1930s the Charleston Land Company appears to have hit hard times. It is likely that the depression sweeping across the United States had a dramatic impact on the company. But even before the 1929 stock market crash, it is likely that the stockholders were hurting. South Carolina suffered through exceedingly low farm prices throughout the 1920s. As Edgar observed:

By 1930, after nearly a decade of difficulties, South Carolina agriculture was about to go under. Farmland and buildings had lost more than one-half their value. One-third of the state's farms were mortgaged, and 70 percent of the state's farmers survived on borrowed money (Edgar 1998:485)

So, at their September 1931 meeting, the stockholders voted to sell the land not yet conveyed to others to Ernest A. Morris for the sum of \$5,500 (Charleston County RMC, DB G36, pg. 251). This deed specifies the lots included in the transaction, distinguishing between the red, black, and farm lots. The black lots included in the transaction included 152, 154, 156, 157, 159, 161, 164, 165, 166, 168, 170, 171, 177, 179, 180, 184, 187, 190, 192, 196, 197, 198, 199, 201, 202, 205, 207, 209, 212, 213, 217, 219, 220, 222, 224, 225, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 236, 238, 239, 241, 244, 246, 247, 249, 252, 253, 257, 258, 259, 261, 263, 276, 278, 279, 280, 281, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 294, 295, 297, 299, 302, 303, 304, 307, 309, 316, 322, 328, 336, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 351, 357, 358, 363, 367, 372, 373, 378, 384, 386, 387, and 393. The red lots included 6, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, and 122. The farm lots included 1, 15, 16, 18, 18½, 19, 21, part of 22, 23, 25,

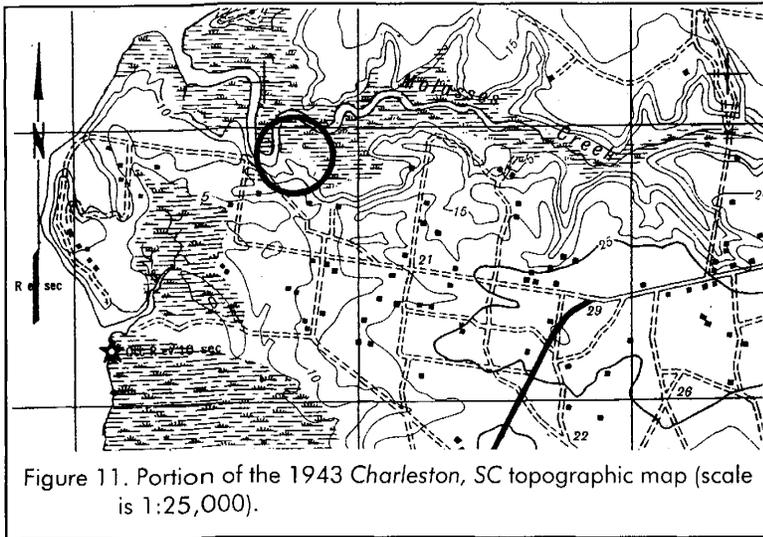


Figure 11. Portion of the 1943 Charleston, SC topographic map (scale is 1:25,000).

26, 28, 29, 30, 39, 47, 50, 55, 56, 57, 58, 58½, 59, 60, 61, ¾ of 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 71, 73, 77, 80, 81, 82, 86, 87, 88, 90, 93, 94, ½ of 95, 96, 98, 99, and 100. Consequently, of the 605 total lots, this deed conveyed 190 lots, plus portions of three more, for an approximate total of 193, or not quite a third of the total. Consequently, between 1909 and 1931, the Charleston Land Company managed to sell 279 additional lots.

The deed also specifies that in addition to these lots, the Charleston Land Company was conveying "all other lots or parcels of land situated on Remleys Point . . . it being the intention of Charleston Land Company to sell and convey by this deed all of its said property." The meaning of this clause, however, seems uncertain. While it might refer to parcels such as the grave yard and park, it might alternatively have been a reference to the land which was not laid out in lots to the south and shown on the 1870 plat.

Equally unclear was the trust provision. The deed specifies that Morris was to obtain the "approval of Charles E. Rausch" and that the funds generated by the sale would be used "first to pay the commissions and expenses incident to the sale, second to pay back to the said Ernest A. Morris all monies which he had advanced for the purchase of said property, and third to divide the

balance equally between Ernest A. Morris and Charles E. Rausch."

Morris appears in the Charleston city directories by 1930, when he is listed as the white manager of the M&M Recreation Parlor at 363 King Street. M&M appears to have been a billiard parlor, although at some point it was also a bowling alley. Morris appears to have served as the manager until around 1944, when he is no longer listed and may have died. Rausch is an equally interesting individual. In 1930 he is listed as an attorney-at-law and employee of the State Highway Department, with a home (and office) at 35 Society Street.

Dorothy Rausch, a daughter, is listed as living at home, but being a student. Also listed in the directories under Charles E. Rausch are the Rausch Apartments, 35-37 Society Street. By 1940 Rausch, perhaps retired, is listed only as the manager of the Argyle Hotel, with a dwelling at 16 Meeting Street. He continues to be listed through at least 1950. The Argyle, on the corner of Hasell and Meeting, was first known as the Pavillion Hotel and was renamed the St. Charles in 1881. By the twentieth century it had become the Argyle and was most commonly frequented by traveling salesmen, or "drummers." It eventually burned and was replaced by the King Charles Inn (Maher 1992:38-39).

There are several maps from this time period. The 1946 *General Highway and Transportation Map of Charleston County* (Figure 10) shows that Scanlonville, while not named, appears to be a relatively flourishing community. Holy Trinity Church is shown, still on the edge of the village and the Remley Point School is shown to the northeast of the church. The road system of the village is better revealed by the 1943 USGS *Charleston* topographic map (Figure 11), although neither the church nor the school are specifically identified. The cemetery area, while not identified as such, is one of the few areas shown in woods.

The Secretary of State files reveal that at a

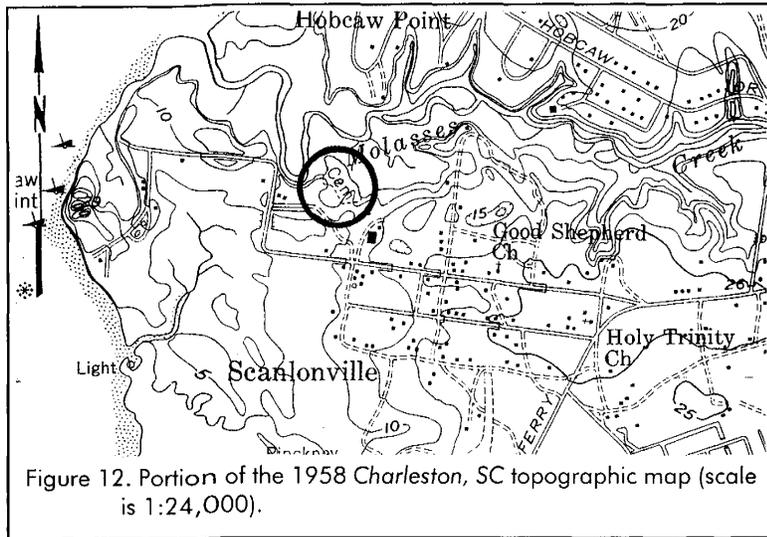


Figure 12. Portion of the 1958 Charleston, SC topographic map (scale is 1:24,000).

place however is lot 389 conveyed by Holy Trinity AME to the Charleston Land Company, as well as farm lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and the eastern half of 8. Also included are five lots, 145, 146, 147, 148, and 149 which were acquired through delinquent tax sales, the north half of lot 32, property conveyed by Benjamin J. Wilson in 1950, and lot 32, sold for delinquent taxes in 1931. It appears, therefore, that rather than attempting to divest himself of the Charleston Land Company property, Morris had not only retained the initial tract, but had added to it whenever the opportunity presented itself.

"meeting of stockholders October 27, 1932" a motion was passed that, "the Charleston Land Company shall go into liquidation and wind up its affairs and dissolve" (SCDAH, Dead Domestic Charters, File 1950c). At that point the capital stock was listed as a total of \$2,800, "divided into 56 shares of the par value of \$50 each." The request for dissolution was signed by the company's president, U.T. Edward; the secretary, James H. Rodolph; and three directors, Howard E. Mazyek, N.L. Butler, and James H. Rodolph.

The next available map is from 1958 (Figure 12). The road network is only slightly different. Several additional churches are found in the village or on its outskirts and, for the first time, Scanlonville is identified as such on the map. Also, for the first time, the USGS surveyors apparently identified the Remley Point Cemetery, showing it encompassing an area measuring about 550 feet northwest-southeast by 300 feet southwest by northeast (about 3.8 acres). When these cemetery boundaries are compared to those shown on the 1870 plat, it appears that the surveyors recognized only the western half, although they plotted it extending southward nearly twice what the 1870 plat would suggest.

#### Mid-Twentieth Century Activities at Scanlonville

It appears that Morris held the property until 1953 when he sold it to Dorothy Rausch Ayres for \$22,500 (Charleston County RMC, DB R56, pg. 527). The background to the deed reveals that Morris was selling the property as trustee for the Charleston Land Company; in addition he was also divesting his own, personal interest in the property. In addition, the background explains that Dorothy Rausch Ayres was the "sole residuary devisee and legatee under the will of Charles B. Rausch, deceased."

#### Recent Transfers Culminating in the Sale of the Scanlonville Grave Yard

The deed again lists the lots being conveyed, with the only difference between this list and that from 32 years earlier is that the farm lot described as 1/2 of 95 is no longer on the list. In its

Ayres held the property until June 9, 1999 when she sold the parcel to the Remley Point Development, LLC for \$466,200 (Charleston County RMC, DB F328, pg. 249). The deed continues to refer back to the 1870 plat of Scanlonville, although it is clear that much of the property had been previously disposed of by Ayres. Remaining parcels include black lots 147, 148, 149, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, and 220. Red lots include 113, 114, 115, and 116. No farm lots are included and no

mention is made of the cemetery.

At the same time, a Quitclaim Deed from Dorothy R. Ayres was obtained by Brittany Leasing Ltd., Inc., with Remley Point Development LLC paying her \$50,000. This conveyance specified the transfer of:

All my right, title and interest to any highland and marsh to the center line of Molasses Creek located to the north of small black numbered lots 145-151, fourth street, red numbered lots 113-116 and small black numbered lots 201-205 as more particularly shown and designated on a plat entitled, "Plan of a portion of the tract of land known as Scanlonville" by John A. Michel, dated February 14, 1870, revised December 1894 by H.S. Lamboll, recorded in Plat Book D, Page 180 in the RMC Office for Charleston County. A part of the above described property is subject to the Graveyard as shown on said plat (Charleston County RMC, DB F328, pg. 237).

A second Quitclaim Deed (Charleston County RMC, DB F328, pg. 243), in consideration of the sum of \$5, was issued to Remley Point Development LLC. The property covered by this quitclaim included, "Black Numbered Lots 145, 146, and 221." There is no mention, however, of the cemetery.

On that same day, Remley Point Development, LLC sold what was identified as Lot A to Thomas D. Rogers III and Victoria A. Rogers for \$1,000,000 (Charleston County RMC DB F328, pg. 302). This 3.782 acre parcel is shown on a plat, "Plat Showing the Resubdivision of Lots 147, 148, 149, and Grave Yard Site into Lots A, B, & C, Remley Point, Scanlonville, Charleston County, South Carolina" (Charleston County RMC, PB ED, pg. 226, also at E328, pg. 302;

reproduced here as Figure 13). This plat reveals that the new Lot A consists of all of Lots 148 and 149, about half of Lot 147, and perhaps 95% of what was originally cemetery.

The deed from Ayres to Remley Point Development specifies that the conveyed property represents a portion of that obtained from four sources:

- the 1953 deed from Ernest A. Morris, Trustee, (while including a number of parcels, Lots 147-149 and the graveyard are *not* included) (Charleston RMC, DB R56, pg. 527),
- the Estate of Hollis Ayres (which includes Lots 162, 163, 176, 186, 189, 194, 248, 254, 264, and 268) (Charleston County Probate Court, File 80-778),
- the deed of Christopher B. Fraser for Lot 216 (Charleston County RMC, DB T201, pg. 499), and
- the deed of Robert Lamar Thames for Lot 211 (Charleston County RMC, DB W271, pg. 330).

Consequently, the source of the conveyed lots is unclear, as is the ownership of the grave yard site itself. In fact, reference to the earlier 1931 deed from the Charleston Land Company to Ernest A. Morris, Trustee, did not include Lots 147-149; moreover, the grave yard was never conveyed in any of the deeds.

Then, on January 22, 2001, Remley Point Development LLC sold Thomas D. Rogers III and Victoria A. Rogers, for \$710,000, additional Scanlonville property, including the small corner of the tract shown as Lot C on Figure 13; Lot B, which was also part of the original cemetery; and Lots 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159 (Charleston County RMC, DB L362, pg. 369).

#### Twentieth Century Aerial Photographs

The various activities at Scanlonville are also clearly documented in a series of aerial photographs readily available at the Thomas Cooper Map Repository. Figure 14 shows the vicinity of Scanlonville in 1949 (image CDV-10F-144). The community is shown as a series of small





Figure 14. 1949 aerial of Scanlonville (CDV-10F-144).

pavilion, along with parking, a beach area, and a large open field.

Figure 16, showing the aerial from 1954 (image CDV-8M-202), reveals that little had changed in Scanlonville. In fact, the only obvious change is the creation of Pinckney Field, an airfield developed by Noland North, who was active in the Civil Air Patrol. The cemetery, including its southward expansion, is still shown as it was earlier.

lots, most of which are under cultivation, many with a small structure. To the east edge of the aerial are the long, linear farm lots. The property line to the south is clearly shown running northwest-southeast. The most obvious east-west road through the village is Fifth Avenue, which turns northward as Third Street. At the edge of the water it turns west as Third Avenue. The Scanlonville Park is shown as wooded — as it was on the original plat. Likewise, the cemetery (shown more clearly in Figure 15) is also wooded. What is interesting is that while most of the village is open, the area south of the cemetery is not. This suggests that the cemetery, by 1949, may have extended southward, beyond its original boundaries, into Lots 148-151 and perhaps even into Lots 159-160. Also clearly seen in this aerial is the African American beach area known as Riverside. At the river's edge is the

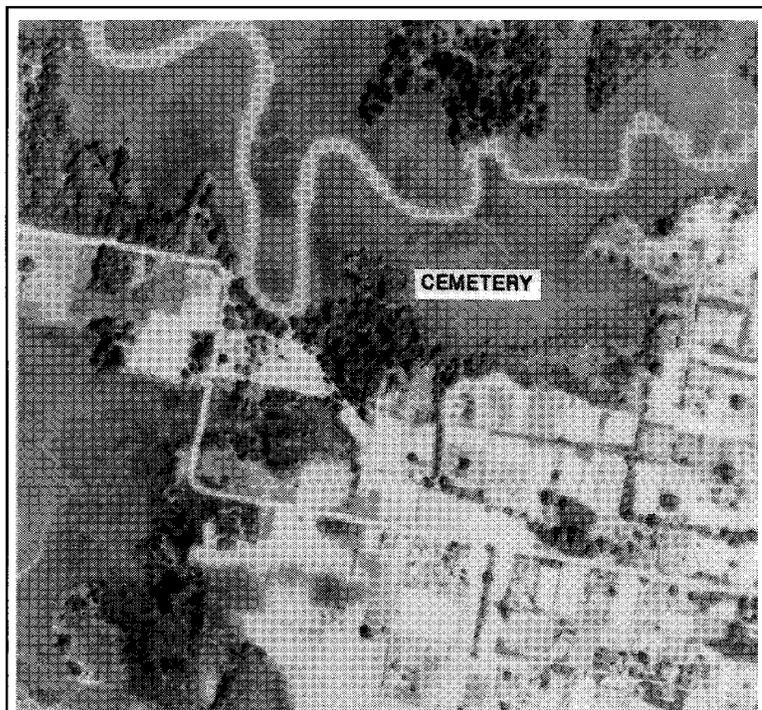


Figure 15. View of the cemetery area in 1949.



Figure 16. 1954 aerial of Scanlonville (CDV-8M-202).

The 1957 aerial (CDV-5T-58) shows only the western edge of Scanlonville, although it does include the cemetery (Figure 17). Again, there are no obvious changes. The road network remained stable, as did the layout of small lots, almost all of which were cultivated. The Scanlonville park remains wooded, and Riverside appears to be well used.

Even the 1963 aerial (CDV-4EE-93) shows that little had changed in Scanlonville. Individual lots are still easily distinguished and most are still being cultivated. By 1967, however, it seems obvious that changes were occurring (1610-69-1871; Figure 18). Many more houses have appeared — most suggesting modern construction. Few of the lots suggest anything more than gardens and wide spread cultivation is no longer obvious. The community appears to be making a transition to a less rural and more urban setting. Nevertheless, the cemetery remains wooded and well defined, as does the Scanlonville park. The beach area is no longer obvious.

Riverside

Riverside was the name of an African American beach which developed west of Scanlonville on the edge of the Wando River. Surprisingly there is little history — oral or otherwise — for this site. Yet it was of tremendous importance to the African American community in the vicinity of Scanlonville. The only brief account we have identified is a *Post and Courier* article (Frazier 2001).

The beach reportedly operated from early 1930s through the mid-1970s, generally consistent with the previously discussed aerial photographs. It is reported that Riverside, for all of its historical obscurity, was the largest and oldest of five black beaches in Charleston County, providing African Americans with a recreation spot even in the midst of Jim Crow. Frazier observes

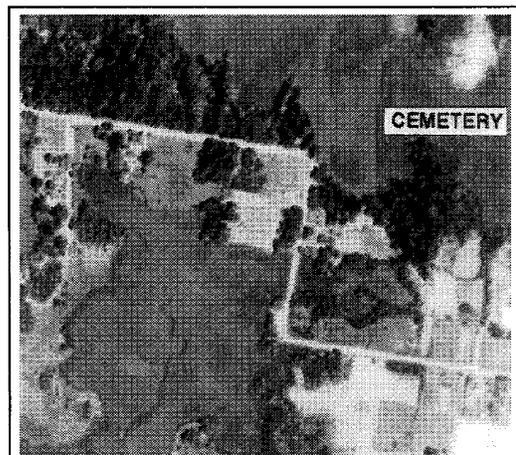


Figure 17. View of the cemetery area in 1957.

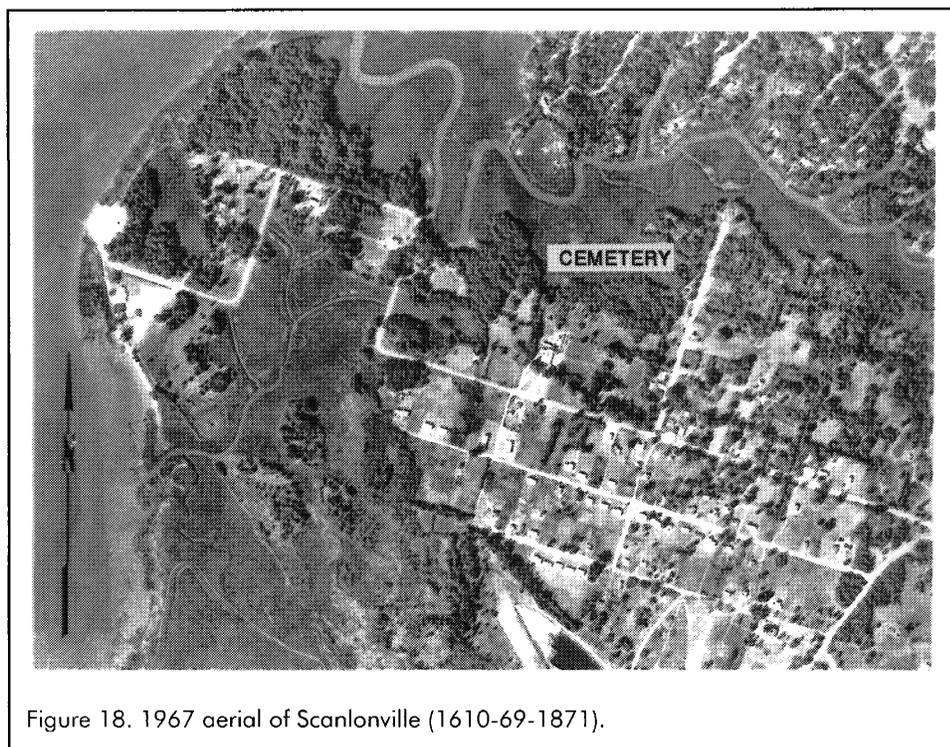


Figure 18. 1967 aerial of Scanlonville (1610-69-1871).

that the growth of these black beaches paralleled events in the white community. As there was more leisure time in the early twentieth century, the beach became more popular. One local resident, Ruby Cornwell, recalled, "Before Riverside, there had been no beach where black people were accepted, even though there is water all around us."

There is some evidence that Riverside grew directly out of Scanlonville. Frazier notes that, "two decades before Riverside Beach opened, Remley's Point already was a recreation spot for black beachgoers. On July 15, 1908, members of a black congregation — Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church on Wentworth Street — boarded the steam ferry Sappho for the trip to Remley's Point beach to spend a pleasant day at the church's annual picnic." When the Cooper River Bridge opened in August 1929, the bridge's owners, the Cooper River Bridge Company, advertised the Isle of Palms beach for white and developed Riverside for blacks. Riverside "officially" opened on August 2, 1930 and

featured a dance pavilion (clearly seen in many of the aerials), an athletics field, a bathhouse, a playground, and a boardwalk along the Wando. By 1936 the Cooper River Bridge Company declared bankruptcy and, about 1941, both the bridge and Riverside, were taken over by Charleston County and leased to a number of black businessmen.

Between 1944 and 1946 the park was leased to cab company owner P.J. Green and hotel bellman Herbert

Chesterfield Frazier. In 1946 the lease went to Reliable Oil Company's owner Abraham Washington and cab driver Edward Mitchell. Although the partnership ended in the 1960s, Washington maintained control of the park until he died in 1975. After that time the County sought only short-term leases. When these proved unacceptable to black businessmen, the County sold the property to Big Bridge, which developed much of Riverside into a gated community, ending the long history of Riverside. Frazier notes that the sale was prompted by the County's desire for quick cash.

During its history, Riverside was much more than a "beach" (although there was never any sand). As Frazier observes, "the pavilion was the only venue for black Charlestonians to see some of America's finest musicians, legends such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Louie Armstrong." By the late 1950s and early 1960s the music had changed; the pavilion was host to B.B. King and pianist Ivory Joe Hunter. Even when no live music was present, local radio station disc

jockeys broadcasted from Riverside.

Frazier also recounts that,

Riverside’s ability to draw people to Scanlonville in the 1940s and 1950s spawned night spots called juke joints or piccoloes . . . . Honking cars kicked up dust on Scanlonville’s dirt roads as party goers crisscrossed the community headed to juke joints. . . . Revelers were in search of a club called Snipes that locals called Jim Plue, the Flamingo, Star Light Lounge, Chita Chatter and Tippin’ In. . . . One of the most popular and largest joints . . . was an air conditioned night club and motel called White’s Paradise on Riverside Beach Road, which is now 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Scanlonville. Soul singer James Brown made White’s Paradise his haven years before “Papa got a brand new bag.”

And just like much of white Charleston that flaunted Sunday Blue Laws, beer and wine could be purchased at Riverside after church.

More Recent Developments — and Threats

The historical integrity of Scanlonville has been affected by a series of developments, beginning with that of Molasses Creek to the north-northeast and quickly followed by the development of the Harbor Watch development to the south. Molasses Creek was the location of a Revolutionary War magazine and guardhouse (Martin et al. 1987). Subsequent attempts to preserve the site were largely unsuccessful because of poorly organized archaeological investigations and looting. The Harbor Watch development revealed little in the way of archaeological remains (Judge and Drucker 1988), although it began a process of gradually reducing the cultural integrity of the neighborhood. Eventually a gated community was constructed on much of the

Riverside property, with little or no archaeological or cultural study.

Most recently Remley Associates LLC has acquired the 15.5 acre tract which used to be the College of Charleston soccer and baseball fields complex. This tract was originally the Scanlonville park and we have not conducted title research to determine how the property came to be owned by the State of South Carolina. There was apparently an archaeological study by Brockington and Associates, but this study (in spite of the project being well under construction) is not available at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. The development, known as River Reach, will include 23-lots (with houses proposed to sell for \$600,000 to \$2.5 million) and 15 docks (Quick 2001b). Even in the midst of construction, a brief walkover reveals eighteenth and nineteenth century delft, porcelain, pearlware, and whiteware — and the project area is likely part of Paul Remley’s plantation. Nevertheless, it appears that the archaeological remains were found not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

To the east will be River Watch, being developed by Remley Point Development LLC. Here 28 or 29 lots are proposed once portions of the original streets of Scanlonville are closed off. Houses will cost between \$350,000 and \$800,000 (Quick 2001a). Based on the best available information, only a reconnaissance survey has been conducted of this property at the present time (letter from Ms. Valerie Marcil, Staff Archaeologist, SC Department of Archives and History to Ms. Elizabeth Ferrel, Trico Environmental, dated August 7, 2001).

As additional “upscale” developments close in on Scanlonville and taxes increase, what remains of a unique historical community, will be increasingly threatened. Not only will the streets and houses change, but so too will the way of life and community itself.



## INVESTIGATION OF THE SCANLONVILLE GRAVE YARD

### Accuracy of Existing Data

At some point early in the process seeking to move graves in the Scanlonville Cemetery, a list of 46 marked graves was prepared and distributed (it is distributed with the caption, "List of Graves @ Remleys Point" and has the identifier "Charleston: 198330" in the lower left hand corner). This may have been prepared for publication as a notice to those having family at the cemetery. My copy has been provided to me by Ms. Gore.

The list, as implied in the previous discussions, dramatically understates the number of individuals present in the cemetery. Most fundamentally, there are a number of unmarked graves present at Scanlonville. In addition, the list fails to use the range of resources available, including death certificates, obituaries, and ownership records. It can only be considered a small sample of the available records and it would be misleading to represent it as portraying anything more. Even this very brief examination of the cemetery, with only random collection of marker data, found almost immediately four additional graves, each clearly marked:

- Helen Hamilton, d. March 22, 1969
- Estelle L. Bailey, d. March 6, 1943
- Lavenia Williams, d. November 26, 1857
- Rev. Isaiah Coleman, d. 1951

Perhaps even more troubling, our very brief check of accuracy found that six reported stones have significant errors:

- the Nelson transcription fails to identify the first name or initial, Mary B.
- *Celta* (wife of Frank) Coleman should read *Celia*
- the death date of Samuel Frager should read May 23, 1951
- the stone listed for Susan *Canlon* is actually that of Susan *Scanlon*

- The stone for Robert Scanlon with a birth date of January 22, 1954 should be for Robert S. Scanlon with a birth date of January 22, 1854
- the stone listed for Daniel Webster is actually the stone for Mary, wife of Louis Webster.

This represents a rather high proportion of errors and calls into question the thoroughness of both the search for marked stones and also the effort to accurately transcribe the data. Such errors could have a impact on the ability to solicit meaningful public input.

The individuals proposing to move the Scanlonville Grave Yard also apparently retained a surveyor to "identify" and plot graves. This document was apparently provided at one or more of the public meetings and a copy has been provided to me by Ms. Gore. It seems to show the location of 115 graves.

Most fundamentally, it would be misleading to represent this plat as showing anything other than "marked" or perhaps "recognizable" graves. Land surveyors have no training in forensic anthropology, bioarchaeology, or other fields which would assist in the identification of unmarked graves. No amount of generic "experience" should qualify them to provide this expert service, any more than a knowledge of a transit qualifies an archaeologist to perform land survey functions. Of course, I do not know how the plat was represented, although newspaper accounts imply that the plat identifies all of the graves present. For example, in one account there is the statement, "The Rogerses said they have counted 117 widely scattered graves, some of them lacking identification" (Fennell 2001).

To both clearly demonstrate that this plat fails to realistically portray the graves at

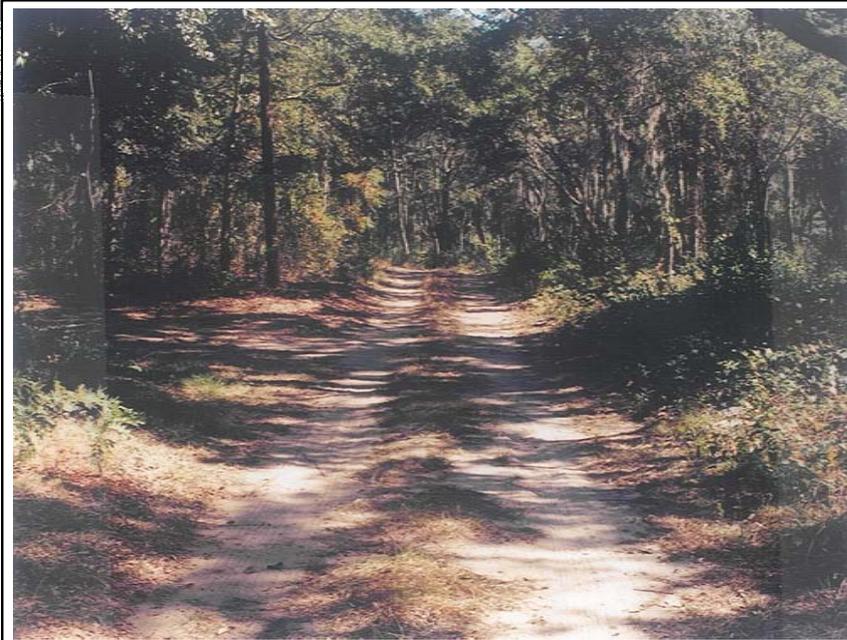


Figure 19. View of Fourth Avenue entrance to the grave yard.

using the Scanlonville Cemetery. But there are other lines of historical information.

Perhaps one of the easiest to access are the death records themselves. South Carolina did not require death certificates until 1915. Prior to that, however, Charleston did collect at least some data. Consequently, there is a significant body of state or county collected records which may provide information on those buried at this cemetery.

A brief examination of a single year — 1943 — resulted in the identification of six individuals buried at what was called the Remley Point Cemetery. These include:

- Sarira (or Laura) Simmons, married to Jerry Simmons, who died January 29, 1943 at the age of 50. Her occupation was listed as housewife. She

Scanlonville and also to help estimate how many might actually be present, we conducted a penetrometer survey of several selected areas of the cemetery, at the request of community members.

Other Avenues to Explore Those Buried in the Grave Yard

Thus far this examination has focused on the physical remains present in the cemetery. Yet there are a number of graves for which there is no immediate information. The previous historical documentation, including lot owners and those holding stock certificates, is likely to help expand the list of families



Figure 20. View of a portion of the grave yard, looking east.

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK.—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be exactly verified. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS 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.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
U. S. Dept. of Commerce Bureau of the Census <b>Standard Certificate of Death</b> STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA Bureau of Vital Statistics State Board of Health					
1. PLACE OF DEATH County of <u>Charleston</u> Township of <u>Christ Church</u> City of <u>Wright</u> Home Address <u>Peasant</u>		Registration District No. <u>901</u>		File No.—For State Registrar Only <b>09344</b> Social Security No. <u>45</u> Registered No. <u>45</u>	
2. FULL NAME <u>Infant Martha Drayton</u> (If death occurred in a hospital or other institution, give name of same instead of street and number.) Residence In City _____ Yrs. _____ Mos. _____ Days _____					
3. SEX, <u>Female</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE, <u>Negro</u>	5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word)	21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>Aug 21, 1943</u> HEREBY CERTIFY That I attended deceased from <u>Aug 21, 1943</u> to <u>Aug 21, 1943</u> I last saw h. _____ alive on <u>Aug 21, 1943</u> ; death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at <u>4 P.M.</u> The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows: <u>remains birth</u> <u>to tumor</u> Was this death due to pregnancy or to childbirth? If so, state which _____ Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause _____		
6. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, and year) <u>July 21, 1943</u> 7. AGE Years _____ Months _____ Days _____ II, less than 1 day, <u>55</u> hrs. or _____ min.			8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, Sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. 9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. 10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) _____ 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation _____		
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Christ Church</u> (State or Country) _____			22. Name of operation _____ Date of _____ What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ Was there an autopsy? _____		
13. NAME <u>Emma Drayton</u> 14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Charleston</u> (State or Country) _____ 15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Anna Anderson</u> 16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Wright Church</u> (State or Country) _____			23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill-in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury _____ '19 _____ Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, and state) Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place. _____ Manner of injury _____ Nature of injury _____		
17. INFORMANT (Address) <u>Wright Drayton</u> 18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place <u>Remley Point</u> Date <u>Aug 22, 1943</u>			24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? _____ If so, specify _____ (Signed) <u>W. H. Peasant, Jr.</u> (Address) _____		
19. UNDERTAKER (Address) <u>J. Smith</u> 20. FILED <u>Aug 23, 1943</u> <u>W. H. Peasant, Jr.</u> Registrar					

Figure 21. Example of a state death certificate (for Infant Martha Drayton, d. August 21, 1943, who was buried by the family at Remley Point on August 22; Certificate No. 9344)

INVESTIGATION OF THE SCANLONVILLE GRAVE YARD

In case of a death, the Physician attending must fill this blank and furnish same to the Registrar under penalty of \$25.00.—Revised Ordinance.

D. H. Co. 46783

Health Department of the City of Charleston

"All permits for the removal of the body of any deceased person from the City of Charleston for Interment, and all Burial Permits, and Permits for the Disinterment of the remains of deceased persons in the City of Charleston, shall be granted and signed by the Registrar."

**Carry this Certificate to City Hall for Burial Permit**

All Physicians practicing in Charleston (including those in Public Institutions) are requested to register their names in the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

Registered No. 48

City of Charleston, (No. 13 Inspection) (St. 5) (If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special Information."

**FULL NAME** John Henry Broughton

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.	
Sex <u>Male</u>	Color <u>Black</u>	DATE OF DEATH	<u>Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 1900</u>
Date of Birth <u>Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1909</u>	Age <u>3</u> years, <u>8</u> months, <u>12</u> days	I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 1900</u> to <u>Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 1900</u>	(Day) (Month) (Year)
Single, Married, Widowed <u>Single</u>	Birthplace (State or Country) <u>Charleston S.C.</u>	that I last saw him alive on <u>Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 1900</u>	
Name of Father <u>James Broughton</u>	Birthplace of Father (State or Country) <u>Remley Point</u>	and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>1 P.M.</u>	
Maiden Name of Mother <u>Marion Howard</u>	Birthplace of Mother (State or Country) <u>Charleston S.C.</u>	The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Labial Pyemia</u>	
Occupation <u>Inspector</u>	Occupation	(SIGNED) M. D. <u>W. H. Ball</u>	
The above stated personal particulars are true to the best of my knowledge and belief		(Address) <u>13 Inspection</u>	
(Informant) <u>James Broughton</u>	Former or Usual Residence	(Address) <u>13 Inspection</u>	
(Address) <u>13 Inspection</u>	How long at Place of Death?	(Address) <u>13 Inspection</u>	
Filed <u>190</u>	Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?	(Address) <u>13 Inspection</u>	
Registrar	Place of Burial or Removal	Date of Burial	
	<u>Remley Point</u>	<u>1900</u>	
	Underwriter	Address	
	<u>W. H. Ball</u>		

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. Physicians should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, that it may be properly classified. The "Special Information" for persons dying away from home should be given in every instance.

Figure 22. Example of a City of Charleston death certificate (for John Henry Broughton, d. June 19, 1910, who was buried by an undertaker at Remley Point; Register No. 48)

was born at Remley Point and was buried there by J.B. Powell (Death Certificate 272).

- Infant Martha Drayton lived 15 hours after her birth, dying on August 21, 1943. She was the daughter of Ernest and Diane Anderson Drayton and was buried at Remley Point by her family. Her twin, who was not named, lived only 14 hours and was also buried at Remley Point (Death Certificates 9344 and 9345) .

- Mary Webster, the wife of Louis P. Webster, died November 14, 1943 at the age of 50+ years. Listed as a housewife, she was the daughter of J. and Martha McCall of Charleston. She apparently lived in Mount Pleasant and was buried in the Remley Point Cemetery by J.B. Powell (Death Certificate 12857).

- Clarence Brown, Jr. was the infant son of Clarence and Margaret Campbell Brown. He died on November 23, 1943 of colitis and was buried at "Remly Point" by Peter Johnson (Death Certificate 12859).

- Alford Campbell died on December 11, 1943 at the age of 42. He was reported to live at 73 Columbus Street and was a plasterer who died of influenza and pneumonia. He was buried at Remley Point on December 15 by J.B. Powell (Death Certificate 13960).

Of these six individuals, only one grave — that of Mary Webster — is marked and has been recorded (albeit incorrectly) by those seeking to move the cemetery. This means that for this one year, only one of the six recorded deaths (17%) is documented — 83% are documented in the field. This, too, reveals that the number of graves at Scanlonville far exceeds the 115 reputed to be present (see discussion on pages 31-32).

The death certificates also provide some information concerning individuals buried at nearby Hunts Ferry Cemetery — which is reported to have been moved to Scanlonville in May 1980. For example, during 1943 there were two individuals buried at Hunts (or Haint) Ferry, including David Wright, who died on July 2, 1943

(Death Certificate 8146) and Jerry Simmons, who died December 11, 1943 (Death Certificate 13960). Since these bodies are now presumed to rest at Scanlonville, it is critical that they, too, be added to the total. This means that of the eight recorded individuals from 1943 today buried at Scanlonville, nearly 88% are not evident based on markers. This suggests that there may be approximately 958 graves at Scanlonville.

Using the Death Certificates issued by the City of Charleston prior to 1915, provides an additional avenue to document those buried at Scanlonville. Again a single year — 1910 — was selected for examination. Three burials were identified:

- John Henry Broughton, who was born on November 6, 1909 and who died on January 19, 1910 at the age of 3 months and 13 days. His father was James Broughton of Remley's Point and his mother was Maria Howard. No undertaker was listed.

- Isabelle B. Dent, who was born November 7, 1908 and who died May 14, 1910 at the age of 1 year and 6 months. The father was Edward Dent and the mother was Isabelle Maxwell. The undertaker for this funeral was R.M. Smythe.

- Anna Green died on June 19, 1910 at the age of 29. No additional information was recorded except for the undertaker, which was not legible.

It is likely that this sample under-represents those buried in 1910. Since the records were maintained by the City, it seems likely that a significant number of African American deaths in rural area, often called the "country" went unreported. Regardless, none of these individuals have been identified based on markers, again suggesting that many more graves are present than have been suggested by the work done to support the removal of these bodies.

A final source of information regarding the cemetery and those buried there can be derived from the obituaries of Charleston papers. Of all the methods this is the least reliable since the *Post*

and *Courier*, we are told, rarely printed obituaries for blacks who died in Mount Pleasant. Our examination was limited to searching for known individuals. Of the 12 sought, only three were found:

- Mr. Walter Bradley "of Remley Point" who died February 17, 1984 and was buried at the "Remley Point Cemetery" by P.S. Johnson Funeral Home (*News and Courier* [Charleston, SC], February 19, 1984, pg. A19).
- Mrs. Lucile Simmons, who was buried at "Remley's Point Cemetery" by Fielding Home for Funerals on December 31, 1984 (*News and Courier* [Charleston, SC], December 29, 1984, pg. A11).
- Mrs. Celia Major, who lived at 335 Sixth Avenue, died January 3, 1975 and the burial was to be handled by Harleston Funeral Home (*News and Courier* [Charleston, SC], January 4, 1975, pg. A9).

### Penetrometer Study

#### Background

A penetrometer is a device for measuring the compaction of soil. Soil compaction is well understood in construction, where its primary objective is to achieve a soil density that will carry specified loads without undue settlement, and in agronomy, where it is recognized as an unfavorable by-product of tillage. Compaction is less well understood in archaeology, although some work has been conducted in exploring the effects of compaction on archaeological materials (see, for example, Ebeid 1992).

In the most general sense, the compaction of soil requires movement and rearrangement of individual soil particles. This fits them together and fills the voids which may be present, especially in fill materials. For the necessary movement to occur, friction must be reduced, typically by ensuring that the soil has the proper amount of moisture. If too much moisture is present, some will be expelled and in the extreme the soils

become soupy or like quicksand and compaction is not possible. If too little moisture is present, there will not be adequate lubrication of the soil particles and, again, compaction is impossible. For each soil type and condition there is an optimum moisture level to allow compaction.

When natural soil strata are disturbed — whether by large scale construction or by the excavation of a small hole in the ground — the resulting spoil contains a large volume of voids and the compaction of the soil is very low. When this spoil is used as fill, either in the original hole or at another location, it likewise has a large volume of voids and a very low compaction.

In consequence, such fill is artificially compacted, settling under a load as air and water are expelled. For example, compaction by heavy rubber-tired vehicles will produce a change in density or compaction as deep as 4 feet. In agriculture, tillage is normally confined to dry weather or the end of the growing season — when the lubricating effects of water are minimized.

In the case of a pit, or a burial, the excavated fill is typically thrown back in the hole not as thin layers that are then compacted before the next layer is added, but in one, relatively quick, episode. This prevents the fill from being compacted, or at least as compacted as the surrounding soil.

Penetrometers come in a variety of styles, but all measure compaction as a numerical reading, typically as pounds per square inch (psi). The dickey-John penetrometer consists of a stainless steel rod about 3-feet in length, connected to a T-handle. As the rod is inserted in the soil, the compaction needle rotates within an oil filled (for dampening) stainless steel housing, indicating the compaction levels. The rod is also engraved at 3-inch intervals, allowing more precise collection of compaction measurements through various soil horizons. Two tips (1/2-inch and 3/4-inch) are provided for different soil types.

Of course a penetrometer is simply a measuring device. It cannot distinguish soil

compacted by natural events or from soil artificially compacted. Nor can it distinguish an artificially excavated pit from a tree throw which has been filled in. Nor can it, per se, distinguish between a hole dug as a trash pit and a hole dug as a burial pit. What it does is convert each of these events to psi readings. It is then up to the operator to determine through various techniques the cause of the increased or lowered soil compaction.

Curiously, penetrometers are rarely used by archaeologists in routine studies, although they are used by forensic anthropologists and by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in searches for clandestine graves. While a penetrometer may be only marginally better than a probe in the hands of an exceedingly skilled individual with years of experience, such ideal circumstances are rare. In addition, a penetrometer provides quantitative readings which are replicable and which allow much more accurate documentation of cemeteries.

Like probing, the penetrometer is used at set intervals along grid lines established perpendicular to the suspected grave orientations. The readings may be recorded and used to develop a map of probable grave locations, or the locations may be immediately marked in the field.

In addition, it is important to "calibrate" the penetrometer to the specific site where it is being used. Since readings are affected by soil moisture and even to some degree by soil texture, it is important to compare readings taken during a single investigation and ensure that soils are generally similar in composition.

It is also important to compare suspect readings to those from known areas. For example, when searching for graves in a cemetery where both marked and unmarked graves are present, it is usually appropriate to begin by examining known graves to identify the range of compaction present. From work at several graveyards, including Kings Cemetery (Charleston County, SC) where 28 additional graves were identified, Maple Grove Cemetery (Heyward County, NC) where 319 unmarked graves were identified, the Walker

Family Cemetery (Greenville County, SC) where 78 unmarked graves were identified, Colonial Park Cemetery (Chatham County, GA) where 8,678 probable graves were identified, and Peoples Cemetery (Petersburg, VA) where 36 additional graves were found in several small sample areas, Settlers' Cemetery (Mecklenburg County, NC) where 608 unmarked burials were identified, and Factory Cemetery (Lexington County, SC) where 525 unmarked graves were identified, we have found that the compaction of graves is typically under 150 psi, usually in the range of 50 to 100 psi, while non-grave areas exhibit compaction that is almost always over 150 psi, typically 160 to 200 psi (Trinkley and Hacker 1997a, 1997b, 1998, 1999; Trinkley et al. 1999; Trinkley 1999, 2001).

After the examination of over 25 cemeteries using a penetrometer, we are relatively confident that the same range will be found throughout the Carolinas, Georgia, and Virginia. It is likely that these ranges are far more dependent on general soil characteristics (such as texture and moisture) than on cultural aspects of the burial process.

A penetrometer survey is most successful when there are clear and distinct non-burial areas, i.e., when the graves are not overlapping. In such cases taking penetrometer readings at 2-foot intervals perpendicular to the supposed orientation (assuming east-west orientations, the survey lines would be established north-south) will typically allow the quick identification of something approaching the mid-point of the grave. Working along the survey line forward and backward (i.e., north and south) will allow the north and south edges of the grave to be identified. From there the grave is tested perpendicular to the survey line, along the grave's center-line, in order to identify the head and foot.

Typically the head and foot are both marked using surveyor's pin flags. We have also found that it is helpful to run a ribbon of flagging from the head flag to the foot flag, since the heads and feet in tightly packed cemeteries begin to blur together.

### Methods and Findings

These methods were utilized at four areas of the Scanlonville Cemetery with relatively little modification.

Area 1 measures about 100 feet east-west by 50 feet north-south immediately north of the access road in the western portion of the cemetery, overlooking the marsh. In this area seven graves had been previously identified and included on the survey plat.

Area 2 measures about 25 feet east-west by 20 feet north-south immediately south of the access road and south of Area 2. No graves were shown for this area on the survey plat.

Area 3 represents the three marked graves of the Scanlonville family — all of which were identified by the surveyor — situated in the eastern part of the cemetery.

Area 4 is within a 10-foot plot surrounded by a iron fence. No graves are marked within the fence.

Our initial walkover revealed that both marked and sunken graves exhibited orientations which were generally east-west, although considerable variation was noted. This variation seems to be consistent in low country African American cemeteries. At times the variation seems to be the result of topography, although other causes (such as the use of the sun to make alignments) cannot be ruled out.

Regardless of the variations, it seems that distinct rows are present, at least in Area 1. Again, this is consistent with low country African American cemeteries, where the order within kin-based units tends to be much greater than the order overall.

This suggests that when a family came to place a new burial it was more important to order or align it with other members of that family than to focus on the overall appearance of the cemetery.

Consequently, our transect lines were placed roughly north-south to intersect the known burials. This initial assessment found that the sunken graves were typically 0.2 to as much as 0.5 foot lower than the surrounding ground level. Soil compaction in non-burial areas (but excluding the road) were found to be about 125 to 200 psi. Areas of clear graves (i.e. marked or sunken) were consistently lower, ranging from 50 to 100 psi.

About 4 person hours were spent examining the four defined areas, with most of that time spent in Area 1 (which was the largest of the four).

In Area 1 (Figure 23 and Table 3) we found that in addition to the seven graves marked by the surveyor, there were an additional three clearly marked. The penetrometer study then identified 13 additional unmarked graves, for a total of 23. This area suggests one grave every 213 square feet.

In Area 2 where no graves had been identified by the surveyor, we found eight in two distinct rows (Figure 23). This area suggests a much more dense cemetery, with one grave every 62 square feet.

In Area 3 where there are three clearly marked Scanlon graves, we examined along a straight line, finding four additional graves (Figure 24). Curiously, there are two "blanks" in this area, suggesting either unused plots or that some very old graves have a far more compact appearance than anticipated. The identified graves here would suggest one grave every 43 square feet.

Finally, in Area 4 we identified at least two and possibly three graves (Figure 25). Normally a 10-foot plot would hold only two burials, each requiring about 3 feet. This study, however, could not discern any undisturbed soil in the plot, making it possible that three bodies are present

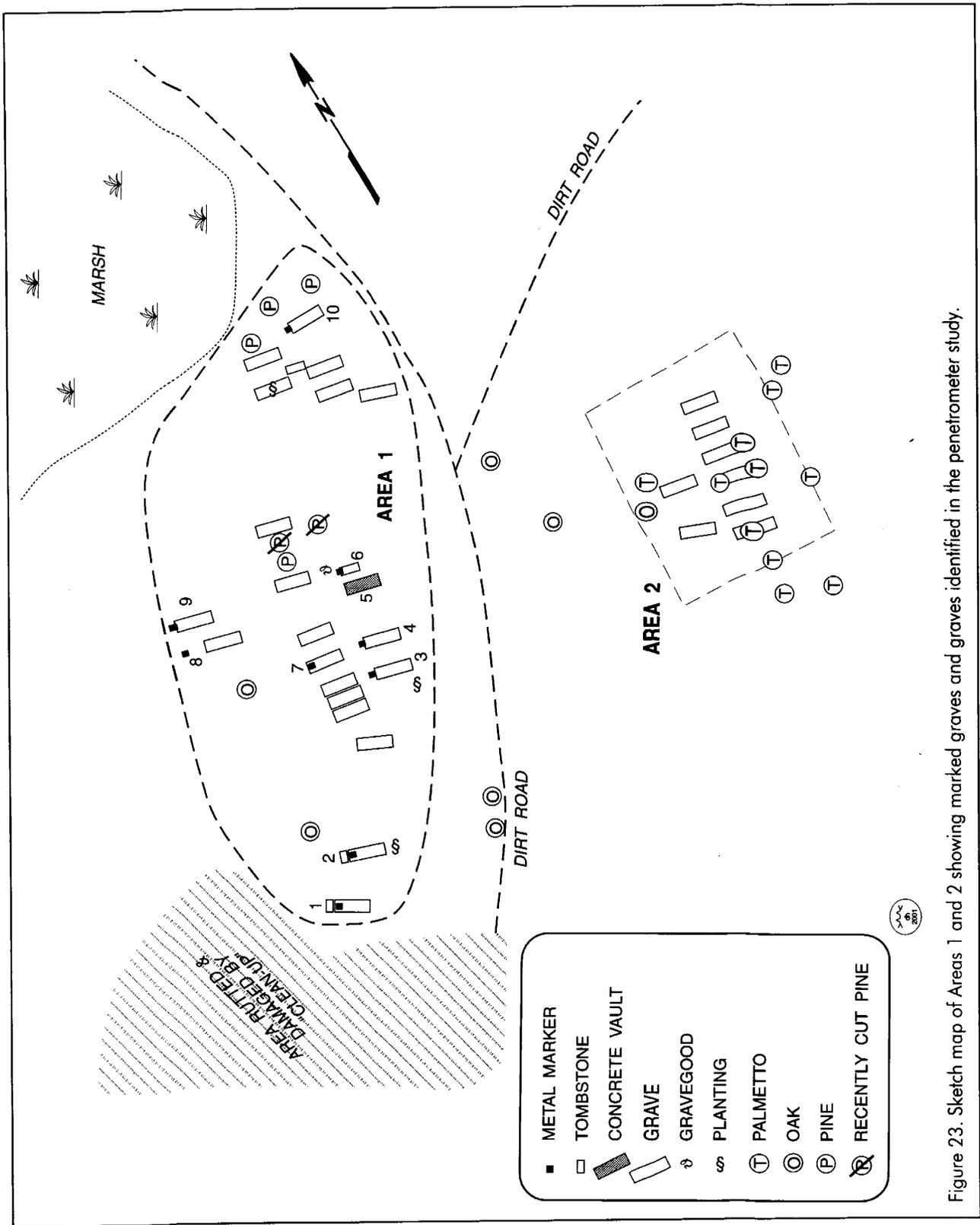


Figure 23. Sketch map of Areas 1 and 2 showing marked graves and graves identified in the penetrometer study.

Table 3. Marked Graves in Area 1

1a.	JAMES NELSON, SR. / US ARMY / WORLD WAR II / JUL 10, 1923 NOV 21, 1989 (Granite, flush to ground, military marker, set upright)
1b.	James Nelson / 11 21 89 (Metal marker, PS Johnson Funeral Home, Mt. Pleasant, SC)
2a.	ROBINSON / JULIUS N. / MARCH 3, 1918 / FEB. 17, 1987 (Granite die on base)
2b.	2 17 87 (Metal marker, PS Johnson Funeral Home, Mt. Pleasant, SC)
3.	2 5 88 (Metal marker, PS Johnson Funeral Home, Mt. Pleasant, SC)
4.	Lillie Bell Bunkum / 1905 1982 (Metal marker, Fieldings Home for Funerals)
5a.	JOHN GRANT / 1902 - 1971 (Concrete vault top)
5b.	John Grant / 1902 1970 (Metal marker, Harleston Funeral Home)
6.	BABY ROZENIA GRANT / 1984 1984 (Metal marker, Fieldings Home for Funerals)
7.	Lorine Evans / March 13, 1965 (Metal marker, PS Johnson Funeral Home, Mt. Pleasant, SC)
8.	Evelna Brown / 11 3 80 (Metal marker, Peter Johnson Funeral Home)
9.	Nathaniel M / Brown Sr / 1942 1989 (Metal marker, Mitchels Funeral Home)
10.	(Metal marker, paper tag behind glass, no longer legible)

Plantings

The search for plantings thus far can only be considered preliminary or a reconnaissance. It is not only limited in time, but also by the season. There are many bulb plants, such as daffodils and snow drops that would not be visible at the time of the examination.

The work was also hindered by seemingly aggressive clearing efforts. This work seems to have focused only

(perhaps two adults and one or more infants or children). Regardless, the investigation of this area suggests one burial per 33 to 50 square feet.

These four areas all reveal considerably more burials than would be inferred based only on stones or even obvious depressions. Nevertheless, we are seeing a range of one burial per 33 to 213 square feet. For comparison, prior to the advent of private, commercial cemeteries, the average was 58 square feet per grave (Anonymous 1983) — close to the ranges of Areas 2, 3, and 4.

Using these estimates, it seems likely that the number of graves per acre may range from 200 to 750. There is evidence (based both on oral histories, the aerial photographs, and the USGS topographic map) that the cemetery exceeded its original boundaries. If we assume a conservative area of about 3 acres, the number of graves could range from 600 to over 2,000.

on the marsh edge, where a zone perhaps 50 to 100 feet in depth was cleared. Many pines (as well as some oaks) have been removed and some are still laying in the grave yard and on graves (Figures 26 and 27). Throughout the grave yard there are large piles of mulched materials. It is also clear that at least one piece of heavy equipment (perhaps a truck) was driven off the established roads and through graves. This has created ruts, which were still clearly visible at the time of this study.

Of equal concern, there is evidence that some initially planted materials were damaged by the clearing efforts. Figure 28 illustrates a yucca (*Yucca* sp.), commonly planted in African American cemeteries and associated with a grave, which has been partially cut down.

In addition to the yucca, other obvious plantings include examples of a century plant (*Agave* sp.) and lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria* sp.).



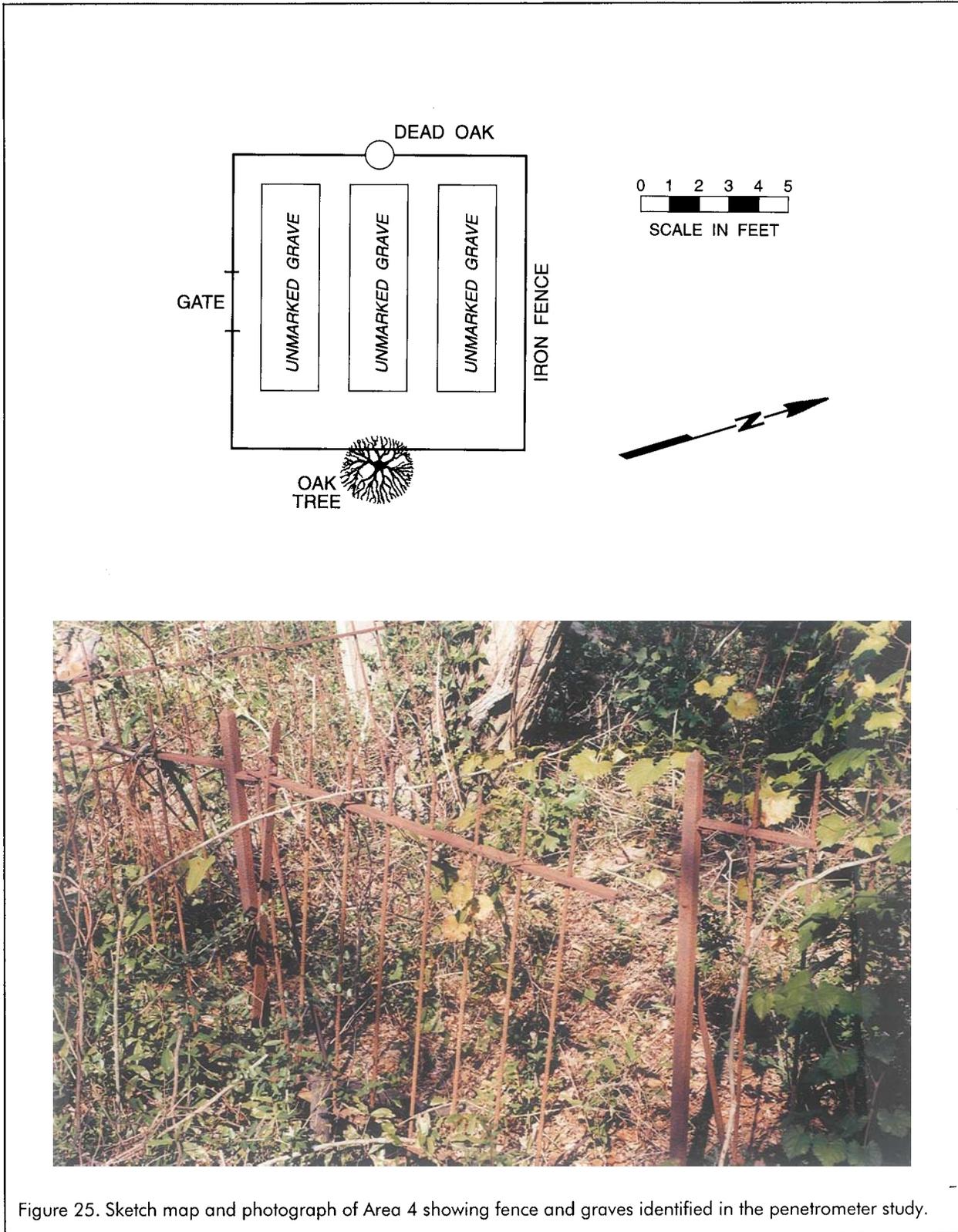


Figure 25. Sketch map and photograph of Area 4 showing fence and graves identified in the penetrometer study.



Figure 26. View of tree removal in the cemetery, with the cut trees left on graves.

disorders (Flemings 1998:1228). It is likely, however, that the plants are planted in African American cemeteries for reasons other than their medicinal qualities.

The cemetery should be re-examined at different times of the year in order to identify additional plantings which may be seasonal.

Since these

Both plants are found in African American cemeteries, although not with the frequency as the yucca.

plantings are a critical component of African American mortuary beliefs and patterns they should be treated with the same care and

Curiously, although the lily-of-the-valley is poisonous, it has a variety of medicinal uses. It has been used for heart insufficiency, infections of the urinary tract, kidney and bladder stones, weak contractions in labor, strokes, and other ailments (Fleming 1998:773). At least some species of the yucca have been used for liver and gall-bladder



Figure 27. Downed timber on top of a metal funeral home marker.

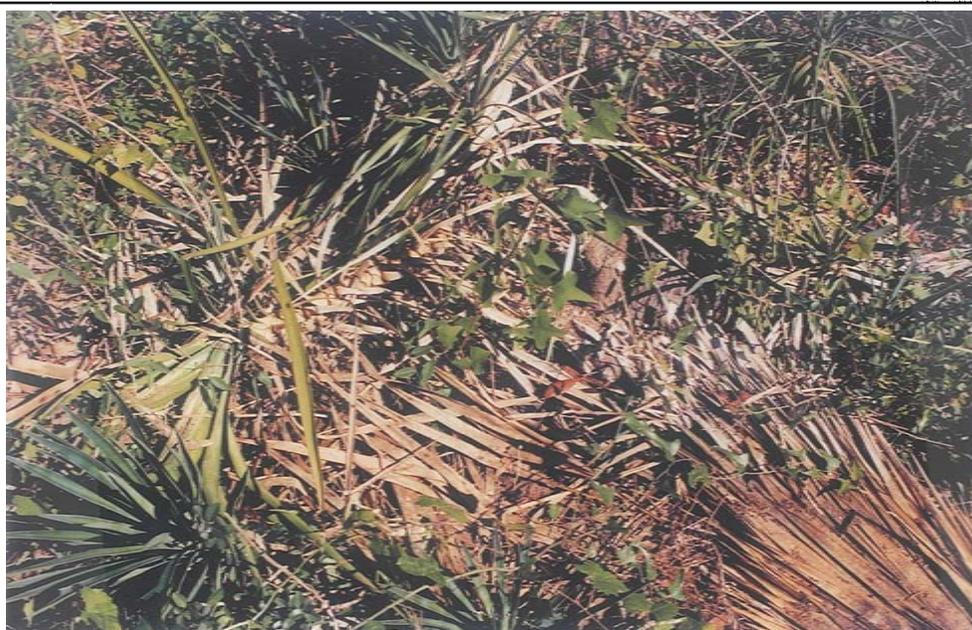


Figure 28. Yucca plants marking a grave, with one plant (to the lower right) recently cut and dying.

the only indication of their origin is a single oral history which suggests a single origin by an individual selling the markers for \$3 each and shipping them by rail.

The uniformity of this one type contrasts with several other varieties (Figures 30 and 31). One is a small tabletstone with hand scratched letters. This stone, like many similar markers at other

reverence as the graves or grave markers.

African American cemeteries reveals that it has been whitewashed in the past. A final variety

### Grave Markers and Grave Goods

A very wide range of markers (in addition to those living markers previously discussed) have been identified during this brief survey of the cemetery, including concrete markers, commercial stones, government stones, at least one vault top, and a large number of metal funeral home markers.

The concrete monuments are of three general types. At least one (Figure 29) exhibits a design motif consisting of consistent, neat upper case lettering with an anchor intertwined in ivy appearing on the shallow-arched tympanum. Below the personal information is a verse. This type of marker is found at many African American cemeteries throughout the state, suggesting that it may represent a commercial source. In fact, Ruth Little makes the same observation, commenting that, "they are so standardized that they seem to be the product of a single firm" (Little 1998:242). She also provides an important clue, noting that



Figure 29. Cast concrete stone of Celia Coleman.



Figure 30. Concrete stone, originally whitewashed, with scratched lettering for Mary Nelson,

includes a rather dramatic tabletstone with a raised cross and scratched information set into a block area. In addition, the grave is surrounded by concrete coping.

Sometimes these concrete stones are viewed only in the context of poverty: these families must have been too poor to afford a “real” marker. This overlooks that these markers are a record of local artistry, produced in vernacular forms to local tastes. In fact, Little comments that, “concrete is a plastic medium that encourages deviation from the rigid stylistic norms governing gravestone design in stone, and creative concrete headstones form the largest body of twentieth century traditional markers in North Carolina (Little 1998:242). The same could be said for South Carolina, and especially the low country cemeteries of African Americans.

Commercial stones include both marble tabletstones as well as granite markers, typically

consisting of a die on a base. A subset of the commercial stones includes government markers, including both upright tabletstones and also flush to the ground markers. Most of the commercial markers are relatively plain (Figure 32), although they typically contain a relatively large amount of carving. This may indicate that at least some of the Scanlonville residents were better able than many rural African Americans of the period to afford grave markings (since epitaphs were priced by the letter).

Of particular interest is one marble marker to Lavenia Williams, who died in 1857 (Figure 33). The marker itself is the unmistakable style of Charleston stonecutter W.T. White (Trinkley 1987:37-40). What is also interesting is that the individual cannot be identified as a free black in Charleston (SCDAH, Free Negro Capitation Tax



Figure 31. Cast concrete stone with scratched epitaph of Estelle L. Bailey.

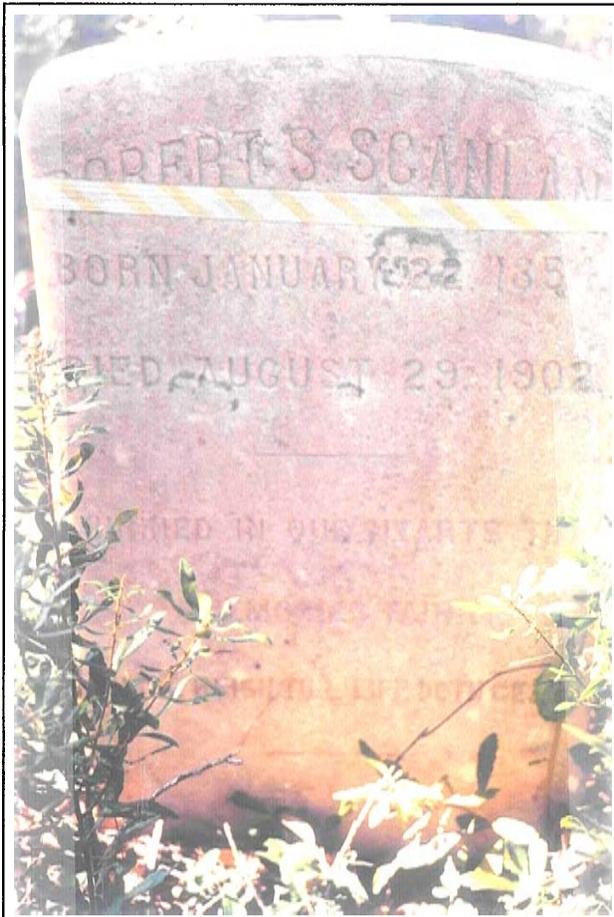


Figure 32. Marble stone for Robert S. Scanlan.

Books, 1850, 1851, ca. 1852, 1855, 1857, S126016). Nor can this individual be identified in the 1850 census (although there is a Lavenia Williams listed for Wyandot County, Ohio). Additional work examining Charleston papers, such as the *Charleston Courier* or the *Charleston Mercury* for an obituary, may provide additional information. At the present, however, the style and expense of the marker suggests that the individual is white, perhaps being buried in the cemetery which was reserved by a number of the original plantation owners. Consequently, this stone may provide an important clue concerning both the location of that original cemetery, as well as the origin of the African American cemetery.

Also worthy of brief comment are the

number of metal funeral home markers (Figure 33). Often used in white cemeteries as temporary markers until a commercial stone is placed, their function is far different in African American grave yards where they may be the primary marker or may be combined with one or more additional markers. These markers have a very short lifespan, not unlike wood markers. In fact, it is possible that they are the modern equivalent of wood head boards.

Other grave marking devices include carefully mounded and swept graves, another common African American trait, as well as graves surrounded by low fences of plastic or wire. Similar devices were seen in Petersburg's African

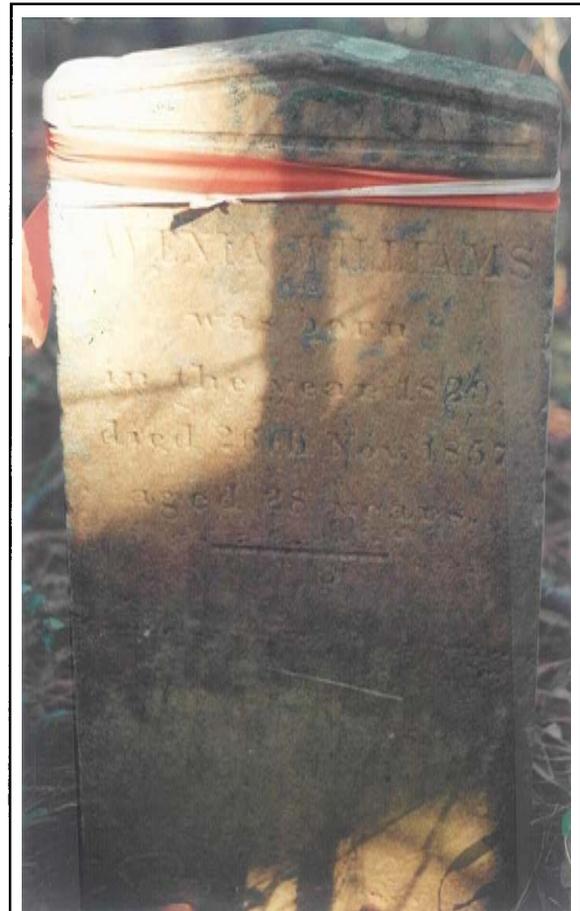


Figure 33. Stone of Lavenia Williams, probably cut by W.T. White.



Figure 34. Metal funeral home marker for the Rev. Isiah Coleman.

American cemeteries (Trinkley et al. 1999:44). Little contrasts these grave enclosures at black cemeteries with the white practice of enclosing an entire plot

(Little 1989:127). In fact, the difference is so great that we suspect that the low enclosures are not, strictly speaking, fencing, but perhaps are more appropriately considered grave decorations. Their function seems not so much exclusionary as commemorative. They help define the grave and ensure its place is remembered.

The single plot surrounded by an iron fence may, however, reflect either white or black use since we know that by the early twentieth century African Americans began to accept this white practice and a number of iron fences also occur at black cemeteries in Petersburg (Trinkley et al. 1999:42-44).

There is evidence of grave goods in the Scanlonville Grave Yard. Figure 35 shows a weathered whelk found deep in the woods, while Figure 36 shows an enamelware teapot, nearly covered over by leaves and debris. Turned upside down, the bottom of the teapot is entirely missing. Also identified, but almost entirely covered up and hidden on the forest floor, was a medicine bottle containing an oily liquid.

All of these items have clear antecedents in the African American community. Recalling extensive previous anthropological investigations, William Pollitzer observes that, "adorning the grave is well known to the Georgia [and low country South Carolina] blacks, and woe to one who steals anything from it, even a broken mirror, for bad luck will follow him" (Pollitzer 1999:147). He goes on to comment:

Broken bottles and other ornaments in an African American cemetery are expressions of religion and magic; anything from a pitcher or tumbler to a clock or lamp chimney is piled upon the earth. Closer inspection may reveal a small headstone marking an individual grave. In light of the meaning behind this clustered assortment, it seems a sacrilege to call them grave decorations, for they are an integral part of the belief system of the interred and those who buried them (Pollitzer 1999:183).



Figure 35. Whelk shell used to mark a grave.

It seems likely that many additional grave goods will be found below the surface, hidden by years of leaf litter and root mass, which has gradually buried them. A similar situation was clearly documented in the African American King Cemetery, also located in Charleston County (Espenshade 1996).



Figure 36. Example of enamelware teapot used as a grave good.

excellent evidence that similar results can be expected at Remley Point. Careful investigation by individuals with training in forensic osteology and anthropology are almost certain to be able to recover extensive human remains from the site. In addition, it is equally certain that coffin handles, thumbscrews, studs, tacks, and screws — all present from the Whitesville Cemetery — will also be present at Scanlonville and these artifacts have the ability to help provide temporal and socio-economic information on burials.

### Burial Remains

No human remains or the remains of coffins were encountered during this brief investigation; there is, however, no reasonable doubt that they exist.

Many of the recent graves examined in the penetrometer study suggest intact, hard surfaces about 2.5 feet below grade. These features are likely coffins, since vaults are uncommon in rural cemeteries of this time period. A few of the older graves revealed lenses of varying compaction, about 2.5 to 3.0 feet below grade, which may represent collapsed coffins.

But perhaps most importantly there is excellent data from a nearby cemetery, identified during grading operations in February 1984. This site was designated 38CH778, although it was apparently known as Whitesville by local blacks. Coffin stains, coffin hardware, and human remains were all well preserved in the sandy soil (Rathbun 1987; Trinkley and Hacker-Norton 1984).

This cemetery was situated on Wando soils — identical to the Scanlonville Grave Yard — less than a mile from Scanlonville. This provides

### National Register Eligibility

The Keeper of the National Register has long recognized that sentiments and reverence may hinder objective evaluation of cemeteries for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. As a consequence, for cemeteries to be considered under Criteria A (association with events), B (association with people), or C (design), a cemetery must meet not only the basic criteria, but also the special requirements of Criteria Considerations C or D. Burial places evaluated under Criterion D (for the importance of information they contain) do not have to meet any additional Criteria Considerations.

#### Eligibility Criteria A and C

The Remley Point or Scanlonville Cemetery is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, C, and D. We have chosen not to advance the cemetery as eligible under Criteria B since the Scanlonville community itself is a better memorial to Scanlon and those of The Charleston Land Company which made land ownership among blacks viable in Charleston County.

Criteria A specifies that a site may be eligible if it is *associated with events that have*

made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The cemetery is an extant and viable representation of the Scanlonville community, essentially unchanged since its inception. It marks not only efforts among blacks to help their own acquire and hold land, but to also form self-sufficient and supportive free communities after the Civil War. The cemetery, designed as an "amenity" or feature available to all of the residents, illustrates the importance of an appropriate burial.

Pollitzer, after reviewing historical information, concludes, "Even to the present era nothing is more important in the life of the sea islander than the assurance of a proper funeral" (Pollitzer 1999:142). Taken in the context of the entire community, its planners laid out two public spaces: the cemetery (to care for residents in death) and the park (to care for residents in life). The founders of Scanlonville recognized that African Americans, denied freedom and dignity during slavery were still being denied dignity in both life and death — and they set about correcting the situation.

Scanlonville was a very long-lived experiment in freedom. While the community itself ceased business in 1932, the community — and the cemetery — has continued to survive and be a focal point among African Americans in the area.

The Remley Point Cemetery is the last of three African American cemeteries in the immediate area (the other two being Hunts Ferry, moved to Remley Point in 1980 and Whitesville, being removed in 1984).

It seems likely that the Remley Point Cemetery is an outgrowth of an earlier, pre-existing white and black cemetery used by a variety of plantation whites and their African American slaves. The cemetery forms continuity between the period of slavery and that of freedom — a context certainly not lost upon those creating Scanlonville. The cemetery, therefore, was not only an integral part of daily life at Scanlonville, but it was also a constant reminder of those ancestors who went before, in slavery, leading the freedmen on.

Criteria C specifies that a site may be eligible if it *embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method*. Again, the cemetery is an extant and viable representation of a low country African American burial ground. It contains the elements which are known to be associated with well-preserved traditional African American cemeteries.

Key elements include loose kin-based groupings. "Family" plots, in the conventional "Rural Cemetery Movement" sense, with clear lines, neat orientations and arrangements, coping, and fencing, are not present. But related family members, often representing very extended family connections, are loosely grouped in the same area. Orientations are roughly east-west, but show considerable individuality and variation. Some of this variation is the result of "making do," placing burials in association with other family members or in kin-groups with limited space. Some variation is the result of burials by family members using only the sun to guide the east-west orientation, or slight movement to avoid obstacles or other graves. Some variation may also be the result of special circumstances, such as an individual's desire to be buried in a particular spot or society's religious or magical view that a certain individual needed to be buried a certain way. Another key element is the presence of impermanent markers. While the use of wood or alternative markers (such as plants) may have been associated with the poverty of African Americans, there is also a strong vernacular association with different materials, materials which can be more easily shaped and modeled than stone. A widely recognized element of low country black burials is their use of grave goods. While the meaning may be argued, this feature is a constant, even if the goods have tended to become buried by deposits, as they have at Scanlonville (or at other grave yards, such as King Cemetery, which is listed on the National Register).

Another key element of black mortuary belief is an association with the place, not ownership of a 3x10 foot plot. Consequently, African Americans point to a cemetery as theirs, not to a plot. They have historically wanted to be

buried with kin and ancestors, not own a particular plot of land. As a result, cemeteries have historically been cleaned up only when a new burial needs to be placed or during certain events, not on a routine basis as one would clean a yard.

In every respect, the Remley Point or Scanlonville Cemetery meets these recognized features of African American grave yards.

#### Criteria Consideration

To be eligible under Criteria A and C the Scanlonville Cemetery must meet Criteria Consideration D, which specifies that *eligibility must be based on the significance from design features and association with historic events.*

These requirements are easily met at Remley Point.

The age of the cemetery dates certainly to 1870 and deed research (plus at least one stone) reveals its use during the antebellum. Since its size greatly exceeds that expected of a white plantation cemetery, it seems likely that the Scanlonville planners also included a pre-existing African American slave burial ground — so the cemetery may date to the property's early colonial ownership by Clement Lemprier.

Moreover, the cemetery clearly reflects Scanlonville's early settlement and planning. It also reflects a critical element of the early efforts, that of ensuring that African Americans were cared for, even into death. The cemetery was also clearly maintained and used by the community, even into the last years of twentieth century.

Of equal importance, Remley Point embodies the folkways, burial customs, and artistic traditions (such as the development of concrete markers) of the African American community. While examined at a number of cemeteries, this would represent only the third such cemetery to be placed on the National Register. Moreover, this cemetery is clearly associated with a distinctive community whose members are actively seeking to ensure the preservation of both the community and

the cemetery. They provide a unique opportunity to provide oral history to further the study of the cemetery, the use of markers in the cemetery, the mortuary habits and customs of a rural black community, and the transitions into the urban setting.

One might even make the case that meeting Criteria Consideration D is unnecessary, since the examination of this cemetery would provide an otherwise unavailable opportunity to examine a wide range of critical genetic, dietary, and forensic questions. With its long history and use by a relatively isolated (and easily documented community), there is the possibility to expand the research into areas which do not require any specific criteria consideration review (Potter and Boland 1992:17).

#### Eligibility of Cemetery Areas Less Than 50 Years Old

There are certainly sections of the Scanlonville Cemetery which are less than 50 years old — exhibiting graves into the 1990s. In spite of their recent age, these sections of the cemetery are also eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Potter and Boland clearly explain that no special criteria considerations are needed for,

A historic cemetery established more than fifty years ago, where the vast majority of burials, markers, and monuments are over fifty years old, but which is still active, and in which a number of burials occurred less than fifty years ago (Potter and Boland 1992:18).

#### Eligibility Criterion D

Finally, this cemetery is recommended for inclusion on the National Register under criterion D, *its ability to address significant research topics.* The importance is determined by a series of research questions that could be resolved by controlled investigation of the site. While generally

focused on archaeology, it is clear that the intent is to be broad and include other areas, such as material culture and social history. As mentioned earlier, cemeteries considered eligible under Criterion D need not meet any of the Criteria Considerations.

Potter and Boland specify that "where disturbance of burials is accidental or unavoidable, legally authorized scientific analysis of skeletal remains *can* [emphasis added] disclose important information about environmental conditions . . . including the prevalence of disease and trauma" (Potter and Boland 1992:14). The use of the word "can," rather than "may" is important, since it establishes a greater certainty. The point being that there are relatively few graves that, upon proper scientific opening, present absolutely no evidence of the interment — no coffin wood, no coffin handles, no coffin nails, no shroud pin, no articles of clothing, no stains suitable for even the most rudimentary metric analysis. In point of fact, with appropriate techniques, there is almost always some degree of material — human remains or associated funerary items — which will provide research data.

The likelihood of such materials being present at this site, as previously discussed, is very high since a nearly identical site has been briefly examined using archaeological and bioanthropological techniques in 1984. Not only were human remains present and suitable for a variety of scientific studies, but coffin hardware was also present and in good condition (Rathbun 1987; Trinkley and Hacker-Norton 1984).

Peter and Boland indicate that burial sites need not be excavated in order to be eligible under Criterion D — any more than an archaeological site can be eligible under Criterion D only after it is excavated. In fact, leaving sites unexcavated, preserved for future generations, is commonly recognized as the wisest course of action for all archaeological resources.

Nevertheless, previous research on African American burial grounds not only illustrates the information which can be acquired, but also the

lines of research which are critically needed. While the topics are generally subsumed under the heading of health and disease, more specific research includes gender differential in mortality; research on childhood metabolic stress; exploration of anemia, both genetic and acquired; documentation of skeletal changes associated with probable physical labor; and further research in lead (among other trace elements) exposure.

Examination of material culture associated with African American burials presents equally interesting options for study. What affects might mass consumerism, commercialization of death services, and competitive displays of wealth have had on rural African American mortuary behavior? What burial customs survived and which ones disappeared, especially in the twentieth century? And perhaps most importantly, why were some rituals maintained while others were allowed to die out?

The ability of the site to address these questions is predicated upon appropriate, careful, scientific, and respectful removal, examination, and reinterment.

While funeral homes may be very knowledgeable in embalming and comforting those who are grieving, they have no experience in archaeological methods, forensic studies, osteology, or bioanthropology. They are entirely unsuited for the delicate task of excavating, recognizing, and collecting human remains. Moreover, they have no ability to analyze those remains and provide the information they contain to the public. Cemetery removal by funeral homes is little more than "scoop and dump."

Should the cemetery — or any portion of it — ultimately need to be moved, the work should be conducted by individuals with training and expertise. Under South Carolina law, a funeral home director must be present, and that individual can serve a valuable function in helping any family members which may be present and arranging all of the reburial activities after appropriate recovery.

At the most minimal level, any burial

removals should ensure appropriate recovery and analysis techniques. Human skeletal analysis should begin with the in situ metric analysis even prior to removal. Once transferred to the lab the remains should be lightly brushed and/or washed depending on the desires of any family members, to remove adhering soil and allow for the collection of additional metric and non-metric data. Consolidates or other chemicals should not be applied to the bones unless explicitly approved by family members in writing.

The initial level of analysis should allow the compilation of thorough descriptions of each individual (including appraisals of sex, age at death, stature, body build, distinguishing characteristics, and skeletal pathologies). Information on taphonomic changes should be collected. Detailed observations and measurements will be entered on standardized forms, similar to those used by SOD.

Specimens exhibiting unusual or difficult to characterize data should be subjected to X-ray or CAT scans. Both are non-intrusive and will leave no residues in the remains. The teeth are especially important for studies of peoples because they reflect age-at-death, diet, disease, health, and genetic affiliation. Dental inventories should be created, but these are not always adequate. Because of the translucent nature of the tooth crown, adequate photography requires coating or dusting the teeth with ammonium chloride fumes. Since this is an invasive procedure, an alternative to make high quality silicone casts of selected dentition. This is a far more benign technique, but it allows vitally important data to be collected, and stored, for detailed analysis.

With this minimal level of analysis the materials may be submitted for reburial. Additional studies may be undertaken if there are time and funds available — and with the permission of family members.

It is likely that at least some coffin remains will also be recovered. These should be completely documented since they can provide additional clues regarding mortuary behavior, the status of

the individuals in the community, and temporal data on the burial. Such materials should be photographed and then reinterred with the remains. In a similar fashion any grave goods should be documented, but must afterwards be reburied.

### Integrity

As a final consideration, it is important that the cemetery must retain its historic integrity. The factors which define integrity include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The site has not been moved, so it possesses integrity of location.

Organization of space, proportion, scale, materials, and ornamentation are all intact and within the bounds of the original cemetery design and layout. Consequently, it possesses integrity of design.

Setting includes elements such as topographic features, open-space views, landscape, and vegetation. There are no intrusive elements and vistas are essentially as they would have been in the nineteenth century. While there has been some clearing of the site, and it is possible that this work affected individual plantings, the cemetery has not been denuded and the damage can be easily repaired. Consequently, we believe that the Remley Point Cemetery also possesses integrity of setting.

Workmanship is generally accepted to be evidence of the artisan's labor and skill. It is visible in the hand-made concrete markers, the cleared and swept plots, the individual plants placed at graves, and the placement of grave goods. Normally, however, workmanship is not a critical element unless it is specifically tied to the significance of the property — which is not the case at Remley Point.

A property, such as a cemetery, will exhibit integrity of feeling if "its features in combination with its setting convey a historic sense of the

property during its period of significance" (Townsend et al. 1993:20). When you visit Remley Point it does convey this sense of place in history. Someone returning to the cemetery after a long absence would be able to remember it as it was. There have been no intrusions or significant changes (beyond the addition of new graves). Therefore, we believe that the cemetery clearly exhibits integrity of feeling. As Townsend and her colleagues note, this integrity of feeling is critical since it "enhances a property's ability to convey its significance under all of the criteria."

The distinction between feeling and association is not always clear, especially in cases such as this where the site is essentially untouched by modern development or intrusions. As a result, Remley Point can easily provide an association between the individual and the past historic events. As you walk the site, the quiet and solitude, combined with the large oaks, the smell of the salt marsh, allow a clear vision of what the site would have been like when it was first viewed by Robert Scanlon in the 1860s.

This brief review indicates that the cemetery is an extraordinary representative of this class or type of site, well preserved, with excellent integrity.



## THE VILLAGE OF SCANLONVILLE

The village of Scanlonville itself is worthy of at least brief review and examination.

### Scanlonville Today

As originally laid out there were about 36 blocks or partial blocks in the core area, running from First Street west to just beyond Sixth Street and from Ninth Avenue north to just beyond Second Avenue. This core area consisted of 0.5 acre lots, with 100 foot frontage on a street and 200 feet in depth. Each full block consisted of 18 lots, measuring 180 feet east-west by 400 feet north-south (see Figure 7 for the original layout).

This system remained relatively intact over the following 130 years, so that today the streets maintain the original layout, with 14 of the original 36 blocks still exhibiting essentially unaltered property lines. This 14-block contiguous core area includes the block bounded by Third and Fourth Avenues and Second and Third Streets, the blocks bounded by Third and Fifth Streets and Sixth Street northward to the marsh, the block bounded by Sixth and Seventh Avenue and Fourth and Fifth Streets, the blocks between Seventh and Fourth Avenues and between Fifth and what would have been Seventh Streets.

Reference to Figure 37 provides a modern view of the core area, showing that the lots are identical to those originally laid out. The plan of the Scanlonville community has changed only on the edges, largely as a result of development pressures.

This is not to imply that the community is "frozen in time." The only road still dirt is Fourth Avenue, leading to the cemetery. The rest have been paved. A few of what are likely the original houses in Scanlonville remain, although most are either vacant or dilapidated. Most of the structures are modern ranch houses, although they maintain

the same scale and position on the lots as the original structures. Significantly, the nature of these structures (their size, their placement, the use of raised piers rather than slab construction) not only help them to blend into the historic community, but also minimize the impact on archaeological resources which are likely present.

Those structures which remain from the early settlement are vernacular. They are single story, frame houses set on brick or CMU piers.

One example on Fifth Avenue is a frame structure with a lateral gable metal roof (Figure 38). The full facade porch has a hipped metal roof. There is an off center entrance. Windows are 6/6. There is a rear shed addition, probably housing a kitchen area.

Nearby, also on Fifth Avenue, is a nearly identical structure, only one room in depth (Figure 39). At the rear is a perpendicular addition with a gable roof.

On Seventh Street is one of the few end to front gable roofed structures. The framing and many other details are original, although clearly the gable vent, roof, and porch have all been altered (Figure 40).

Figure 41 shows another unique structure in Scanlonville, although it is today in dilapidated condition. It, too, is an end to front gable roofed structure, with both cross gabled and shed roofed rear additions. Windows were again 6/6 and the roofing was entirely metal.

There are a number of lots which are wooded, representing what were earlier small horticultural plots. Some of these also contain the ruins of early structures — now archaeological sites rather than architectural features. Many also exhibit large live oak trees which likely date from

# Charleston County Property Map

Tax Map Number: 514-10-00

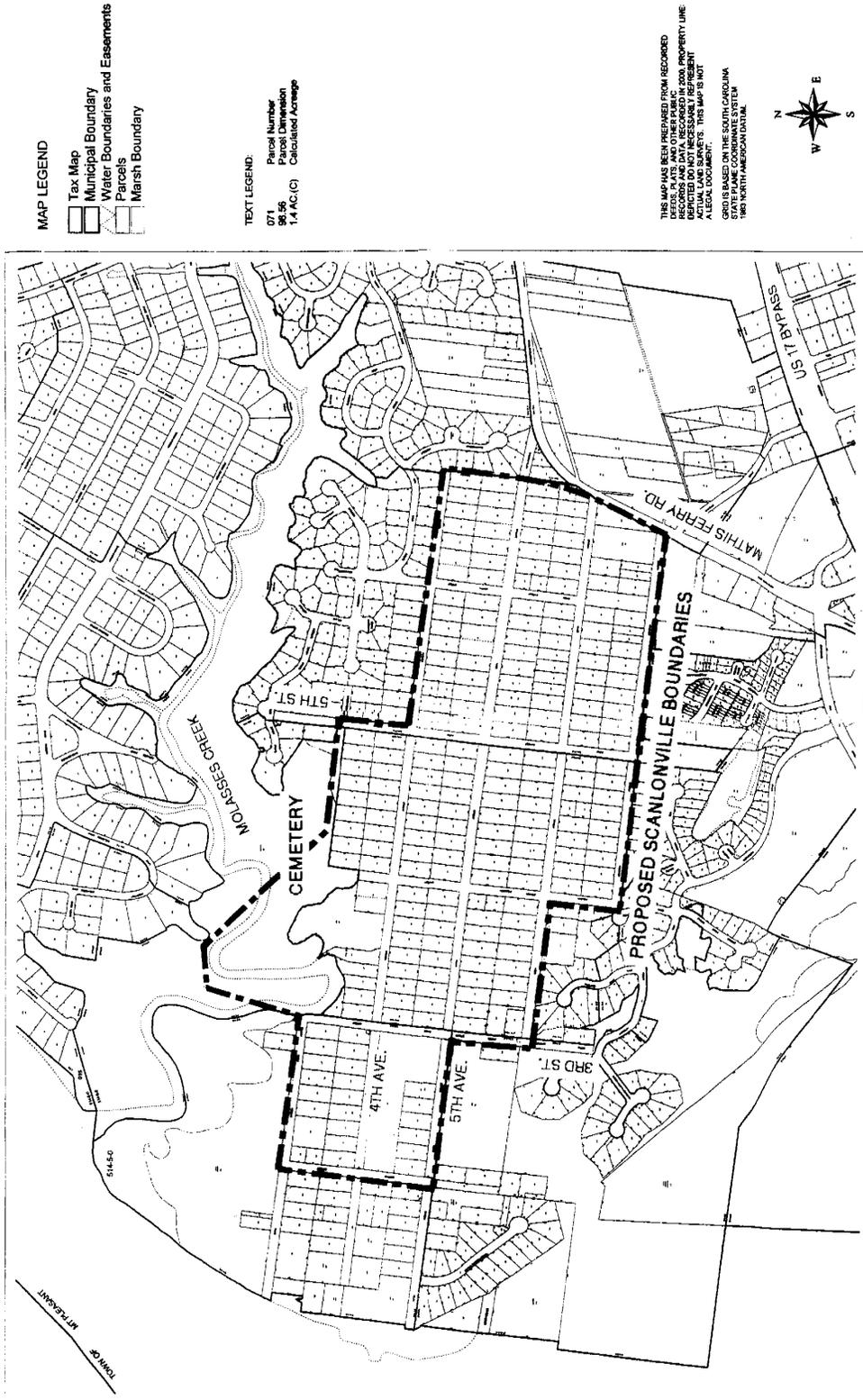


Figure 37. Charleston County Tax Map 514 showing the Scanlonville community.



Figure 38. House on Fifth Avenue immediately west of Atonement Reformed Episcopal Church, looking south.



Figure 39. House on Fifth Avenue, looking southwest (TMS 514-10-0-066).



Figure 40. House on Seventh Avenue, looking south (TMS 514-11-0-007).



Figure 41. House on the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifth Street (TMS 514-11-0-072).

THE VILLAGE OF SCANLONVILLE



Figure 42. Heavily wooded tract looking north (TMS 514-10-0-001).



Figure 43. Garden plot on the southeast corner of Sixth Avenue and Fourth Street (TMS 514-10-0-024).

the early period of Scanlonville (Figure 42).

Some of the wooded lots south of Third Avenue likely contain significant, intact remains of the early plantation developments at Remleys Point. While not specifically associated with Scanlonville, these remains are nevertheless significant resources which are worthy of protection and contribute to overall historical significance of the community.

Finally, there are lots which continue to have large garden plots. These are significant for the feeling which they create, providing a direct link to the original settlement.

#### National Register Eligibility

The Scanlonville community is recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A (historic events), B (important persons), and D (ability to provide important information). The eligibility of Scanlonville is not only justified on its own merits, but is appropriate based on the precedence of the State Review Board's recent acceptance of a similar African American community, Jamestown in Florence County, South Carolina.

#### Eligibility Criterion A

The Scanlonville community is significant as a representation of early efforts by African Americans to acquire land. While there is much historical awareness of broad themes such as "forty acres and a mule," the Freedman's Bureau, and even the "Port Royal Experiment," there is far less awareness of communal or associative efforts by blacks to purchase and hold land as groups. In fact, our historical research reveals that Scanlonville is but one of a handful of such documented efforts in South Carolina. The efforts at Scanlonville were noted at the time by national media outlets and even attracted comparison to the "communism" which would sweep the world during the first two decades of the Twentieth Century.

Moreover, it perhaps represents the most successful of these efforts with The Charleston Land Company remaining viable until the Great Depression. It therefore collapsed not due to any fault of the African American community, but rather as yet another victim of America's unstable economy.

The community remains with its original layout, streets, and even lots. While relatively few of the original structures remain, those which are present today are in keeping in terms of scale and placement on the lot as the originals. Many of the modern-day residents can trace their ownership back to the operation of The Charleston Land Company. Even more continue to affirm the community of Scanlonville.

Under Criterion A, Scanlonville is significant in the categories of agriculture (while representing traditional agricultural activities, the community operated at a communal level, which was unique to postbellum South Carolina), community planning development (representing perhaps the earliest African American planned community in Charleston County), economics (representing a communal or "communitistic" venture as it was described), entertainment and recreation (Scanlonville was a hub of black entertainment during the 1920s and 1930s), ethnic heritage (for its strong roots in the African American community), and social history (since Scanlonville represents unique social origins and has maintained these strong social ties for 130 years).

#### Eligibility Criterion B

The village of Scanlonville was named for Robert Scanlan (or Scanlon), an African American carpenter. Probably a slave prior to the Civil War, Scanlon represents a class of African Americans who quickly formed a viable middle class upon freedom. His insight and business ability lead to the creation of The Charleston Land Company, and allowed a large number of Charleston's blacks to acquire small, reasonably priced plots of land.

Scanlonville is the best extant property or feature which is illustrative of Robert Scanlon and the contributions he made to the African American community of Charleston.

Under Criterion B, Scanlonville is significant in the categories of community planning and development (representative of Scanlon's vision), and ethnic heritage (representative of a freedman's ability to make exceptional impacts on the welfare of his people in postbellum South Carolina).

#### Eligibility Criterion D

Scanlonville retains a number of open lots whereon there is a high potential for archaeological remains. During only a brief archaeological reconnaissance, archaeological remains have been found in the park, as well as the northwest edge of the cemetery.

One significant research goal would be the comparison of archaeological remains present at Scanlonville with those identified from the freedman's village of Mitchelville (Trinkley 1986). How might the governmentally sponsored Mitchelville community differ from an African American settlement without any governmental control? How might the proximity to governmental jobs and relatively greater sources of immediate wealth have affected those living in Mitchelville compared to the lifeways of those living in far more rural Scanlonville?

It is critical that Scanlonville be recognized as the significant archaeological resource it is and not dismissed.

Under Criterion D, Scanlonville is significant in the categories of historic archaeology and also ethnic heritage.



## SUMMARY

### The Historical Importance of Scanlonville

Scanlonville has extraordinary significance as an intact African American community originally established by a voluntary association company — **only one of perhaps 3 or 4 known to have existed in South Carolina.** As such, its historical importance is tremendous.

It is equally unique in that its planners established both a park and a cemetery, specifically for the benefit of its residents. While the park found its way to the lands of College of Charleston and has today been sold to private developers, **the cemetery remains an integral component of the community — in addition to retaining its historical significance.**

It is likely that the cemetery existed even before Scanlonville, as one of two areas on the Remley Plantation where whites were being buried. It is also likely that **a portion of the cemetery was also in use by the slave community for the burial of their families.** Consequently, while the earliest documented burial at the Scanlonville cemetery is 1857, it is likely that burials go at least to the early nineteenth century, and possibly into the eighteenth century.

**We believe that the cemetery is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C, and D, clearly meeting Criteria Consideration D.** We also believe that the cemetery, because of its association with the Scanlonville village, is eligible at the state level of significance.

**The Scanlonville community itself is of tremendous historical importance, remaining a cohesive, predominantly African American community.** While relatively few of the early structures exhibit integrity, the

community layout is intact and replacement structures are consistent with historic buildings in scale and placement on the lots. Lots themselves have remained stable and it is still possible to see the original community plan today.

**Scanlonville is also well known for its association with the segregated Riverside beach.** While the beach itself has been sold off and developed, Scanlonville remains intact and its close ties to the beach are well preserved and represented.

**The Scanlonville community is recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and D.** Because of its unique history and importance in the development of African American property ownership, we believe that the site is significant at a state level.

**Scanlonville, inclusive of the cemetery, is one of Mount Pleasant's most important African American historic sites,** representing the power of African Americans to acquire and hold land, as well as the African American community's power to band together and provide services and assistance to one another during an era of Jim Crow laws in South Carolina.

### The Nature of the Cemetery

We have identified a number of errors in the documentation of burials provided by those desiring to move the cemetery. At least some of these errors would have an impact on the ability to identify decedents.

Likewise, the map of "known" burials fails to include a number of marked, as well as unmarked, burials. **We estimate that the cemetery may contain between 600 and**

**2,000 burials of African Americans.**

**It is likely that the cemetery includes the entire area — approximately 4 acres — plus has extended beyond the original cemetery boundaries to the southeast.** This spread of African American burial grounds is also common and consistent with the spiritual, cultural, and emotional ties to the place. The “cement” of these ties is that of ancestors and the desire to be buried with ancestors.

The cemetery — the features which are critically important to the African American community — are not limited to the remains of those buried there, but **also include the markers (especially the living memorials), the grave goods, and the location and arrangement of family groups.**

Our historical study has failed to determine the means by which the cemetery was acquired and made available for sale. **Historically, the cemetery was viewed as the property of the community and was never intended to be sold or subdivided.** In the various deeds up until 1999 the cemetery is never referenced as company property available for sale.

**There is no evidence that the cemetery has ever been “abandoned” in a social sense.** It remains an important aspect of the African American community at Scanlonville. **Interpretation of its appearance as that of “abandonment” is a tragic misunderstanding of traditional African American mortuary and burial beliefs and one which attempts to view their culture in the context of white society.** Equally to the point, burials have taken place in the cemetery as recently as the last decade.

**The “unkempt” appearance of the cemetery is consistent with African American mortuary practices.** Families cleared portions of cemeteries as the need arose. There was never, historically, a calling to “maintain” traditional black cemeteries in a manner consistent with those in white society.

It is not unusual, or an indication of abandonment, that there is no “list” of individuals buried in the cemetery or that families have no deeds to burial plots. **For African Americans the importance has historically been the location — the burial with ancestors. It was the cemetery which was important, not a specific 3 by 10 foot plot.**

**Thus far the efforts to identify families of those buried in the cemetery have failed to use the resources which are readily available, and which our study reveals can make significant and critical contributions.** These resources include both city and state death certificates, lists of company stock holders, lists of property owners, and obituaries from local papers. In addition, mortuary or funeral home records also exist. All of these would significantly increase the quantity of family information — and the ability to better judge the feelings of the African American community.

The Role of the Law

I am not an attorney and cannot address any of the legal issues involved. I can, however, point out that South Carolina’s law concerning cemetery removals (South Carolina Code of Laws, §27-43-10) was amended in 1994. At that time the legislature added the sentence, “The governing body shall consider objections to removal pursuant to the notice under item (2) or otherwise before it approves removal.”

As a layperson it seems clear that the legislature began to realize that moving a cemetery should not be accepted lightly or without considerable consideration. In particular they seem to be suggesting that the governing body should evaluate the “costs” against the “benefits.”

In fact, this is stated even more clearly — and definitively by one source, cited as an authority in the South Carolina Code:

On an application for cemetery relocation, there is a presumption in favor of leaving the cemetery

undisturbed and the governing authority must balance the applicant's interest in disinterment with the public's and the descendants' interest in the value of the undisturbed cultural and natural environment (*American Jurisprudence, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2000*, vol. 14, sec. 27, pg. 575; cited *14 Am Jur 2d, §27*).

**In the current situation, then, the Town of Mount Pleasant would be asked to weigh the applicant's interest in building a house of their dreams against the descendants' interest in continuing undisturbed a cemetery with a documented history of 130 years likely containing the graves of both free and enslaved African Americans, expected to number between 600 and 2,000.**

This same source provides some additional thoughts worthy of consideration. On the issue of abandonment, it comments:

This question of abandonment is largely one of intent, which is inferable from the acts or recitals of the parties, interpreted in the light of all the surrounding circumstances, and such abandonment is a question of fact or a mixed question of law and fact. However, as long as a cemetery is kept and preserved as a resting place for the dead with anything to indicate the existence of graves, or as long as it is known and recognized by the public as a graveyard, it is not abandoned (*14 Am Jur 2d, §27*).

The South Carolina Code of Law notwithstanding, this statement of American law would suggest that **there is nothing to indicate abandonment of the Scanlonville Cemetery. It is clearly known to the community as a cemetery, it contains a number of very visible and**

**clearly marked graves, it is clearly shown on plats and even maps produced by the United States government as a cemetery — there is no reason convincing to a lay person to consider the cemetery abandoned.**

In fact, it is argued that, "when a tract of land is dedicated as a cemetery, it is perpetually devoted to the burial of the dead and may not be appropriated to any other purpose, at least in the absence of any authorized exercise of the power of eminent domain (*14 Am Jur 2d, §21*). It seems, again as a layperson, that the identification of the tract as a cemetery on the official plat of the property, prepared in 1870 and revised in 1894, serves as dedication appropriate to the time period.

There is also some discussion of an individual's rights when a cemetery is acquired:

Where a conveyance is made of land a portion of which has been dedicated and used as public burying ground, the purchaser, having notice of the public right, takes subject to such right, even though no reservation is made in his deed, and even though the cemetery is not established by a deed to the proper state or municipal entity (*14 Am Jur 2d, §22*).

This seems directly applicable to the current situation, where **the owner acquired the property with full knowledge and awareness that the cemetery existed. In fact, public comments seem to suggest that the current owner had been watching the property — and certainly its use as a cemetery — for the last 15 years. As a consequence, it is inconceivable to argue that the current owner has been denied best use of the property or that his property rights are being violated by the governing authority refusing to allow the cemetery's removal.**

In point of fact, acquiring the property in full knowledge of the cemetery suggests that the current owner should be responsible for upholding the original trust — that of ensuring the cemetery is appropriately cared for and used for the purposes intended when it was laid out in 1870 by Robert Scanlon.

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