



South Riding Cemetery Tour

2pm, Sunday, January 18, 2015

You are invited to join Wynne Saffer and Larry Roeder for an informal tour of South Riding cemeteries and a discussion of field stones and cemetery preservation. Please assemble in the rear parking lot of the J. Michael Lunsford Middle School (26020 Ticonderoga Road, -- just off Braddock). Dress warmly, wear water resistant shoes and bring water and snacks. Children are encouraged to attend. For questions call Larry Roeder at 703-867-2056. Participants will drive themselves. Maps and further details are at <https://conklinproject.wordpress.com/cemetery-tour/>

The tour will also introduce the village of Conklin, which was started by white farmers but became more well known in the 20th century for its African-American population. The village ran along Braddock Road and up Elk Lick. Visit <https://conklinproject.wordpress.com/>. There will also be some discussion about the segregated school system. Please visit: <https://loudounschoolproject.wordpress.com/>.

Sites on the tour:

Stop One: Michael Lunsford Middle School, rear parking lot (26020 Ticonderoga Road). There are two sites. The first site is the Hampton Brewer Cemetery, which likely holds graves of Hampton Brewer and some former slaves he registered as free before the Civil War. The second site is a marked cemetery further to the east and accessible by a foot path. Those people are thought to be mostly Deans.

Stop Two: Prosperity Baptist Church, 42962 Braddock Rd. Prosperity was established by Jennie Dean in 1899 and is full of cut field stones and traditional grave stones. Jennie was an evangelist and former slave from Prince William County whose efforts in education directly helped Loudoun African-Americans who studied at the church or at the Manassas Industrial School, the latter of which for decades was the only local avenue for a high school education.

Stop Three: Dean-Settle Cabin: The one-and-a-half story log cabin (originally across Loudoun County Parkway) dates back to the first quarter of the 19th century and was a residence initially for whites and enslaved African-Americans of the Dean family who inherited the structure. Very interesting since both enslaved and freed African-Americans lived here.

Stop Four: The Saffer Cemetery: The site is maintained by the Saffer family, has a bench and many traditional engraved tombstones and field stones. African-Americans, members of the Saffer family and Joseph Conklin are buried here. Conklin Village was named after Joseph. This is also the traditional west boundary

Stop Five: Pangle Cemetery. This was part of the Pangle family farm.

Stop Six: Mystery Cemetery. Mystery cemetery is above South Riding Boulevard and is distinguished by a ceramic pot with the mark of a cross. We do not know who is buried here, white or African-American.

Stop Seven: Cage Hutchison Cemetery: This is the burial site of Andrew Micajah (Cage) Hutchison, who was born May, 1832 and died March, 1922. There are two field stone markers on the site, which is opposite Little River Elementary School.

Stop Eight: Poland Cemetery: The developer placed a fence around it with a gate, but no one maintains the property. Loose branches and vines obscure what otherwise would be a very attractive feature with excellent tombstones. It's an example of why we want to create a cemetery club to maintain old sites.