

Cemetery Committee

January 17, 2023

We ask that our committee be 5-7 members, we may ask some additional members to help us but not be appointed by the Commissioners.

Current Members (need to be re-appointed) = Lonnie Jones-Chair, Jerry Brown, Pete Eller

Members no longer available=Jo Greene, Carol Williams

E have talked to several people about membership, and we ask that you appoint as new members Jennifer Thompson Dollar and Dr. Bob White.

Members can be re-appointed every 4 years or whatever the board wishes.

We have not been meeting regularly, but plan to do so. We will send brief minutes to the board quarterly or yearly.

Our assigned task was to identify all Ashe County cemeteries, especially abandoned cemeteries, and help maintain a list of those. All cemeteries are included in this. The West Jefferson City cemetery, the Jefferson city cemetery, and Ashe Lawn Cemetery are public cemeteries

A two volume book listing cemeteries and burials has been published but over 20 years of additional burials and a few new cemeteries are not in that book. Several websites have been developed in that time frame, primarily "Find-A-Grave". There are others. None are complete.

We feel the following things need to be done and with your help and support we want to do these things:

1. Coordinate a public information effort to inform people of cemetery laws and regulations.
2. Organize an "Adopt-A Cemetery" program using community members to arrange necessary cemetery upkeep and maintenance for as many abandoned cemeteries as possible.
3. Organize volunteers to add to the "Find-A-Grave" website information on additional burials. A local website could be developed to link to that site and to list information on laws concerning cemeteries.
4. Nominate cemeteries that are appropriate for Historic status. Use signage to identify those.
5. Prepare a handout about cemetery laws and regulations for developers, real estate companies and for the Register of Deeds office to hand out as property changes ownership.

6. We want to work with the Commissioners and the Sheriff's office to do something about deliberate cemetery desecration. We believe we all have an obligation to protect cemeteries and burial places.
7. Identify Indigent, slave and Native American burial cemeteries.
8. There are some additional things that could be done.
 - a. GPS coordinates of cemeteries could be added to deeds
 - b. Ask local funeral homes to provide a listing of new burials and locations.
 - c. Some counties have passed an ordinance concerning cemetery protection.

Jerry Brown will talk about the need for preservation and protection.

Pete Eller will talk about a Public Awareness Campaign and Historical cemeteries.

Lonnie Jones will discuss the work of the committee.





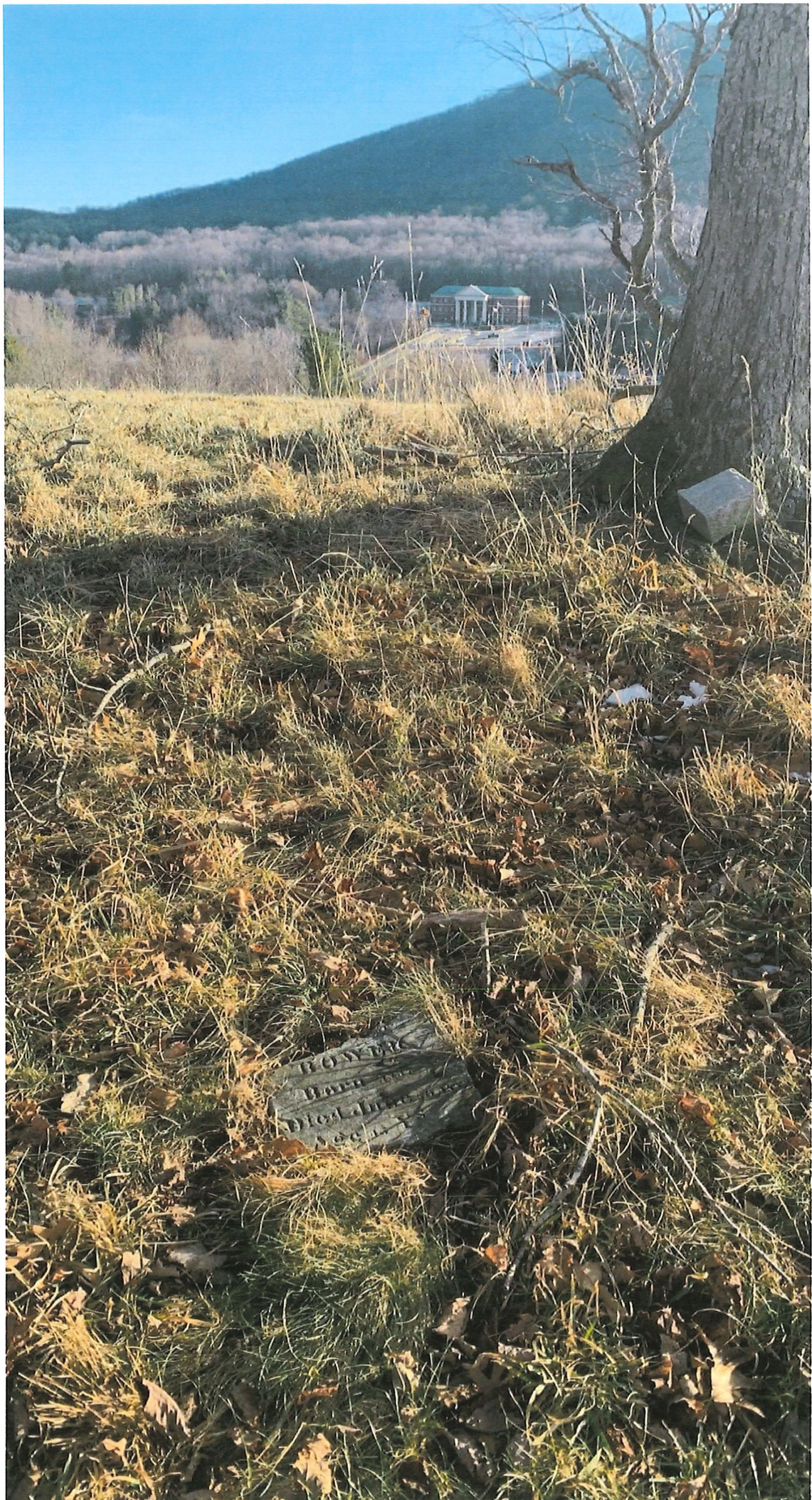




A photograph of a weathered, grey granite gravestone for Sarah Poole. The stone is rectangular with a decorative border at the top featuring three stylized flowers. The inscription is carved in a serif font. The stone is set in a cemetery, surrounded by dry grass, fallen brown leaves, and some green weeds in the foreground.

SARAH POOLE
FEB. 12. 1836
MAY 3. 1950









ASHE COUNTY POOR FARM
CEMETERY 1914—1950

LAWRENCE BROWN
FRANCIS
CLIVE HURLEY
MILLIE PERRY
SUZY POPE
SARA PUGH
SHERF RILEY
JESSIE WILLARD

MURRY EASTRIDGE
BENNIE GRIFFIN
ACE MILLER
PLUMMER
CELIA PUGH
WILLIAM RICHARDSON
MARTHA SHAW



John J. Brown Family Cemetery

Also known as *Brown
Family Cemetery*

