



John G Moore, Sr. <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>

Information on Rosson Cemetery in Gibson county

3 messages

John G Moore, Sr. <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>
To: Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov

Thu, Dec 3, 2020 at 9:16 AM

Hello Ben,

Last month I heard a presentation by our DNR cemetery outreach person, and I was hoping to find a person in Tennessee in the same role. I am looking for information on Rosson Cemetery located south of Kenton Tennessee. My grandparents are buried there. I believe the property that surrounds the cemetery may have changed hands recently and I remain concerned about our family having access to the cemetery. We believe that the last burial was in 1965.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have information or any questions.

Best regards,
- John

John G. Moore, Sr.
3961 Guilford Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46205-2827
Home: (317) 923-2603
Mobile: (317) 384-9946

Benjamin Nance <Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov>
To: "John G Moore, Sr." <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 3, 2020 at 11:29 AM

Hi John,

I think the closest we have to a cemetery outreach person would be Graham Perry at the Tennessee Historical Commission. He is the liaison to the newly formed historic cemetery advisory committee: Graham.Perry@tn.gov. The position is still new enough that I don't know exactly what he covers, but one of the tasks of the committee is to review state laws pertaining to cemeteries and make recommendations on needed changes.

One of the changes needed is to the part of the law that covers cemetery access. In 1911, *Walter Hines vs State of Tennessee* set a precedent that allowed descendants access to cemeteries (see below). It was never made part of the state's [statutory law](#). This court case also decided that descendants have the right to be buried in ancestral cemeteries as long as there is still room.

Walter Hines v. State 149 SW 1058-1060 (1911)

Case argued and determined in the Supreme Court of Tennessee for the Middle Division.

Nashville, December Term, 1911.

- *Cemeteries. Land devoted and used as a burial ground is held in trust for*

that purpose by the owner and his successors in title.

Where the owner of land definitely appropriated and devoted a small part thereof as a private family burial ground, and it has been used as such, the land cannot be conveyed or devised so as to interfere with such use, because such owner, his grantees, devisees, and heirs hold the title in trust for the benefit of those entitled to a right or easement of burial in it, who also have the right to visit the cemetery for the purpose of repairing, beautifying, and protecting the graves and grounds, and, for these purposes, they have a right of ingress and egress from the nearest public road, to be exercised at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner.

I did not find Rosson Cemetery on USGS topographic maps, but it is listed on [FindaGrave](#). Using that location information, I checked property maps, and the current owners are listed as Donald and Mary Asbridge. https://assessment.cot.tn.gov/RE_Assessment/ParcelDetailIMPACT.aspx.

There is also a [Gibson County Historical Society](#) that might be able to help with any questions you have.

I hope this information helps.

Regards,

Ben



Benjamin C. Nance | Archaeologist Supervisor

Tennessee Division of Archaeology

1216 Foster Ave., Cole Building #3

Nashville, Tennessee 37243

615-687-4779

Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/arch-archaeology.html>

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To: Benjamin Nance <Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov>

Hi Ben,

Thank you for your timely and thoughtful reply. I'll followup with Graham and the historical society for more information. Your reply about the law sets my mind at ease.

Please stay safe,
- John

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Information on Rosson Cemetery in Gibson county

9 messages

John G Moore, Sr. <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>
To: Graham.Perry@tn.gov
Cc: Benjamin Nance <Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov>

Thu, Dec 3, 2020 at 3:52 PM

Hello Graham,

I'm interested in finding information on Rosson Cemetery in Gibson. I recently added the cemetery to FindaGrave, and I have confirmed that the cemetery is listed as being non-taxed, yet it doesn't appear as a cemetery on the USGS maps. The last known burial was in the mid-1960's and a few years ago brush in a large portion of the cemetery was cleared. I'll check with the county Historical Society for information as well.

Thanks in advance for any information you can provide.

Best regards,
- John

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Graham Perry <Graham.Perry@tn.gov>
To: "John G Moore, Sr." <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>
Cc: Benjamin Nance <Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov>

Fri, Dec 4, 2020 at 10:10 AM

Hello Mr. Moore,

Not surprising it didn't make the USGS map, although those can be quite handy. If it is listed as "non-taxed," did you get that info from the TN Property Data site, and if so, do you know the parcel number? That might help me some.

Then I might can make some proper suggestions.

Graham

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John G Moore, Sr. <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>
To: Graham Perry <Graham.Perry@tn.gov>
Cc: Benjamin Nance <Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov>

Fri, Dec 4, 2020 at 1:58 PM

Hi Graham,

Thanks so much for your reply and interest. About a year ago we had some research done on the cemetery.

Property Location

Address: W OF RUTHERFORD KENTON RD

Map: 009 Grp: Ctrl Map: 009 Parcel: 025.01 PI: S/I: 000

I've attached the complete listing along with an aerial view of the cemetery. Please let me know where we can go from here.

Best regards,
- John

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2 attachments



AerialView.JPG
511K

 **RossonCemetery-TNRealEstateAssessmentData-14May2019.pdf**
67K

Graham Perry <Graham.Perry@tn.gov>
To: "John G Moore, Sr." <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 4, 2020 at 2:13 PM

This is helpful. It may be Monday before I can get in to this in-depth, but I will surely contact you with more info.

Graham

G. Graham Perry III, ABD | Historic Preservation Specialist-Cemeteries

Tennessee Historical Commission

State Historic Preservation Office

[2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN 37214](https://www.tn.gov/government/state-historic-preservation-office)

p. 615-532-0087

graham.perry@tn.gov

[tnhistoricalcommission.org](https://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org)

[Quoted text hidden]

Graham Perry <Graham.Perry@tn.gov>
To: "John G Moore, Sr." <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>
Cc: Benjamin Nance <Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov>

Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 12:59 PM

So, in digging a bit on [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), I found that one of the people buried at Rossons Cemetery had a death certificate that said he was African American. I am wondering judging by the timeframe that people were buried in the cemetery if this was a black cemetery, possibly tied to a community or likely a church.

This MIGHT be a clue that could help. It doesn't mean it's not a mixed race cemetery, but it is likely that it is not. It would explain why it is difficult to locate information.

Do you happen to know of any African American history groups in Gibson County you might ask?

Graham



G. Graham Perry III, ABD | Historic Preservation Specialist-Cemeteries

Tennessee Historical Commission

State Historic Preservation Office

[2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN 37214](https://www.tn.gov/2018/01/2941-Lebanon-Pike-Nashville-TN-37214)

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[tnhistoricalcommission.org](https://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org)

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Benjamin Nance <Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov>

Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 1:09 PM

To: Graham Perry <Graham.Perry@tn.gov>, "John G Moore, Sr." <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>

There's the Stigall Ethnic Museum and Library in Humboldt. It's been 7 or 8 years since I visited, but they appear to still be active.

<https://www.facebook.com/Tom-OE-Stigall-Ethnic-Library-Museum-2205436999711636/>

Ben



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<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/arch-archaeology.html>

[Quoted text hidden]

Graham Perry <Graham.Perry@tn.gov>

Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 1:13 PM

To: Benjamin Nance <Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov>, "John G Moore, Sr." <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>

I should have thought about that since I have friends there. For some reason I forgot Humboldt was in Gibson County.

Try contacting Johnny Cyrus at 731-618-1258 or Jerry Marable (731) 424-5249. Tell them I referred you. They know me well...

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John G Moore, Sr. <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 3:57 PM

To: Graham Perry <Graham.Perry@tn.gov>

Cc: Benjamin Nance <Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov>

Hi Ben and Graham

Thanks for the contacts you've provided on information about Rossons Cemetery. I'll be sure to get in touch with them this week. I was primarily interested in what information the state has on the cemetery. As I mentioned I attended a presentation by one of our state employees on data and resources surrounding cemeteries in our state, and curious about what I could find out from the State of Tennessee. I have quite a bit of information about Rosson Cemetery, and possibly some of the contacts you shared can help me find a place to share the information. I'm sure that down the road it will be helpful for you to know that the church linked to the cemetery is St. Paul in Kenton, and the western half of the cemetery is believed to be White and the eastern half is Black with a twenty-foot buffer zone. My grandparents are buried just east of the buffer zone. The eastern half of the cemetery was only exposed within the last eight years and judging for the size and date of the markers, and the lack of any of the living Cole Family members recognizing any of the names. I will continue to find a way to have the cemetery documented or identified as something other than on a county record that indicates "not-taxed".

Hopefully, in a post covid world I can get out there and do a census soon.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

- John

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[Quoted text hidden]

Graham Perry <Graham.Perry@tn.gov>

Tue, Dec 8, 2020 at 12:17 PM

To: "John G Moore, Sr." <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>
Cc: Benjamin Nance <Benjamin.Nance@tn.gov>

That is something that over time I hope to compile with the database entries, but for now, TSLA, local history organizations, or county cemetery books are about the only way to go—and we're talking records that are not in digital format, meaning they'll have to be hand copied and entered. You can imagine how time consuming it would be to find and enter historical information for more than 30,000 cemeteries, which is what I have in the database so far.

If do you contact Stigall, knowing about even the black section by itself might turn up info for the cemetery as a whole.

Nevertheless, I am here if you would like to speak further.

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John G Moore, Sr. <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>

Follow up questions from A Grave Matter Presentation

3 messages

John G Moore, Sr. <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>
To: JRDinius@dnr.in.gov

Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 4:29 PM

Hi Jeannie,

I enjoyed your presentation and found it very informative. It has prompted me to restart a small project I been working on for the past few years. My question is how much information to states typically have about cemeteries. Last week I contacted two people in Tennessee who have roles similar to yours looking for information, on a small cemetery in western TN that hasn't had a burial within the last fifty years.

How do states typically formally indicate that a cemetery is a cemetery? The cemetery I'm hoping to documents is totally surrounded by a privately owned farm. The state guy did confirm that we are guaranteed access to the cemetery, which through the years has been a concern. They did mention that the cemetery is not on the USGS map, and they did not mention that they have a resource similar to the SHAARD Database.

I'm just wondering what other states may have regarding small historic cemeteries.

Thanks in advance for any help you may provide.

- John

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Regan-Dinius, Jeannie <JRDinius@dnr.in.gov>
To: "John G Moore, Sr." <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 8:35 AM

Thank you for the find words on my presentation.

My answer to your question on other states is it varies. Some states don't have a database like ours, so I would work at the county level. Make sure they have it at the library, on the GIS system for the county (zoning or development). That will help protect it locally.

Jeannie

Jeannie Regan-Dinius

Director of Special Initiatives

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

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From: John G Moore, Sr. <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2020 4:30 PM
To: Regan-Dinius, Jeannie <JRDinius@dnr.IN.gov>
Subject: Follow up questions from A Grave Matter Presentation

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

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John G Moore, Sr. <john.g.moore.sr@gmail.com>
To: "Regan-Dinius, Jeannie" <JRDinius@dnr.in.gov>

Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 4:29 PM

Hi Jeannie,

Thanks for your reply. After several emails with the folks in Tennessee, it seems that they have no information at the state level. One of the first questions the state folks asked for was the parcel number, which I gave to them along with a aerial map. They did mention that down the road they will be creating a database to hold information on cemeteries. So in the meantime I'll be in contact with some of the local historical groups.

I had the chance to look at the map of historical sites our state has and it is quite impressive. Keep up the good work.

Best regards,
- John

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 9, 2020, at 8:35 AM, Regan-Dinius, Jeannie <JRDinius@dnr.in.gov> wrote:

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PowerPoint from A Grave Matter!!

1 message

The Genealogy Center - Allen County Public Library <Genealogy@acpl.info>
Reply-To: The Genealogy Center - Allen County Public Library <Genealogy@acpl.info>
To: John.g.moore.sr@gmail.com

Sat, Dec 5, 2020 at 5:00 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)



A Grave Matter

Thursday, November 19th at 6:30 p.m. EST

[Access the PowerPoint from this program here!!](#)

Cemeteries tell us much about who came before us. The size, shape and documentation vary from religious groups, time period, and location. But all are important outdoor museums and can help you better understand your family, their lives, and communities. Jeannie R. Regan-Dinius, Director of Special Initiatives for the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, explore some common and no-so-common resources for finding your loved ones' last resting place and what those places can tell you your ancestor and extended family. Presented by: Jeannie Regan-Dinius

Jeannie Regan-Dinius has a life-long interest in history, family history, and research. She earned her Bachelor's in Public History from Ball State

University, where she studied also anthropology and American Studies. She has her Master's in Urban Planning and Information Management/Library Science from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, and will complete her Master's in Public History (hopefully in December) also from IUPUI.

Before coming to the State, she was the Executive Director of a 96-acre historic park in Huntington, IN. She came to the state in 2000 to help work on the Underground Railroad research initiative. She was given the additional responsibility of the Cemetery Registry, the Historic Theater Initiative, and public outreach.



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