

# Researching Walterboro's Historic Live Oak African American Cemetery

Colleton County Memorial Library Resource Guide



Founded in 1890 as a cemetery for the congregation of St. Augustin's Episcopal Church (modern Church of Atonement), Live Oak African American Cemetery is today one of the most important remaining African American historical sites from the late 19th/early 20th centuries. It contains the burials of some of the earliest known African American community leaders, as well as many of the town's most prestigious and historic black families. Learn more about this historic cemetery with the resources below or by visiting the Colleton County Memorial Library and its South Carolina Room.

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*This resource guide is an introduction to the sources available to those interested in learning about Walterboro's historic Live Oak African American Cemetery.*

## **Brief History**

The historic area of Live Oak African American Cemetery, comprising 2 ¼ acres, was donated by local blacksmith and prominent **African-American landowner Joseph Dorman** to **St. Augustine's Episcopal Church (modern Church of Atonement)** on July 15, 1890 to serve as a burial place for members of the church. It quickly expanded beyond that to become a community cemetery for local black families of every denomination. A small expansion was added to the western edge of the cemetery in 1950, and another was added in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. **The cemetery is one of the most important African American historic sites in Walterboro, containing not only burials of most of the town's most well-known black families but also many of the town's most prestigious 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century African American businessmen, politicians, educators and civil servants.** It also contains the burials of several members of the US Colored Troops who settled in Walterboro following the Civil War.

## **Cemetery Address** - Detreville Street, Walterboro, SC

### **Owners**

*Episcopal Church of the Atonement* [Historic Section]  
114 Gruber Street, Walterboro, SC 29488

*William & Margaret S. Hamilton Foundation* [1950 Addition]  
732 Columbia Dr., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

*Mungo Ella Life Estate Ernest J. Mung* [Modern Addition]  
1622 Chisolm Rd., Round O, SC 29474

### **Prominent Burials**

#### **William A. Driffle**

*SC House of Representatives, Town Councilman, Carpenter (Reconstruction Era)*

#### **Daniel Sanderson**

*Corporal 35<sup>th</sup> US Colored Troops (Civil War) & Town Postmaster, Town Councilman (Reconstruction Era)*

#### **William A. Paul**

*Town Auditor, Town Postmaster, Town Councilman (Reconstruction Era)*

#### **Remus Waring**

*Businessman, Baker and Restaurateur (Reconstruction Era)*

#### **Rachel Waring Maree**

*Businesswoman, Baker and Restaurateur (Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century)*

#### **Rebecca Maree Brooks**

*Businesswoman, Press & Standard Columnist (Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century)*

#### **Preston J. Hammitt**

*Principal of Colleton Training School (Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century) & Pastor – St. Peter’s AME Church (Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century)*

#### **Peter A. Dorman**

*Businessman (Barber), Landowner, Son of Joseph Dorman who donated land for cemetery (Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century)*

#### **Pernyece A. Gerideau**

*Prominent Educator and Education Administrator (Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century)*

## References & Resources

### Newspaper Articles from Walterboro's "The Press & Standard"

Accessible through Digital Reel: Colleton's Online Historical Archive ([colletonlibrary.org/e-content](http://colletonlibrary.org/e-content))

"The County Chairman," *The Press & Standard*, 18 Jun 1942, page 7

"Live Oak Cemetery one of Beauty Spots of Community," *The Press & Standard*, 18 Mar 1931, page 6

### Maps

1918 Walterboro Topographical Map showing Live Oak and Live Oak African American Cemeteries to southeast of town

[https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/south\\_carolina/txu-pclmaps-topo-sc-walterboro-1918.jpg](https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/south_carolina/txu-pclmaps-topo-sc-walterboro-1918.jpg)

### Cemetery Guide

Cemetery guide with listing of known burials, created by an unidentified source (possibly the Colleton Genealogy Society)

Available upon request - [wborohistorynotes@gmail.com](mailto:wborohistorynotes@gmail.com)