



**The Spirit
of **Sankofa**:
Edgerly Cemetery, MCAS
Beaufort, SC**

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with Gary Herndon



EDGERLY CEMETERY

MCAS Beaufort was formerly home to several antebellum plantations, to include Edgerly and Red House. In 1863, after the Emancipation Proclamation, former slaves of the plantations pooled their money together to purchase the land from the government at a delinquent tax sale and established their own family farms. Some of those families included the Binyards, Finleys, Kelsons, and Stevens. This site contains a cemetery for those families, with burials dating back to at least the early 1860s. Most graves are unmarked with an exception being the grave of Stephen Binyard, whose tombstone notes his military service. A former house slave on Edgerly, after Emancipation in 1863 Binyard joined the United States Colored Troops and served for three years. Binyard and his extended family were also part of the group that purchased land in 1863. Upon returning home, he married Jane Henry, a former slave on Red House, and they worked the family farm for almost a decade. Binyard accidentally drowned in 1882. Many living descendants of the original families of Edgerly and Red House Plantations still reside in the Beaufort area.



**Aug 2015 Sign Unveiling Ceremony
Edgerly Cemetery, MCAS Beaufort, SC**

Photos by Kimberly N. Morgan



**Oct 2018 Binyard-Finley
& Descendants of Edgerly Family Reunion
MCAS Beaufort, SC**

*Photos by Cpl Ashley Phillips, MCAS Beaufort via
DVIDShub.net*



Apr 2024
Graduation of PFC Steven Binyard
III, USMC Boot Camp (Parris
Island, SC) &
Visit to the grave of his 4x
Great-Grandfather, Stephen
Binyard, USCT at Edgerly
Cemetery, MCAS Beaufort, SC



Photos by Lance Cpl Kyle Baskin,
MCAS Beaufort, SC via
MCAS Beaufort Facebook page
and DVIDSHUB.net



Every Cemetery has a story.

Every Headstone has a story.

These stories deserve to be told.

These stories need to be told.

In the spirit of Sankofa, help those stories to be told by “going back and getting [them]”.

Plan of Action to get started:

- Researching a historic cemetery**
- Researching the people/graves within a historic cemetery**
- Creating partnerships to help achieve research, preservation, education and advocacy goals**
- Bringing attention to your project**





**#1. Start with what you know:
Document the Cemetery/Graves**

**#2. Research the property the cemetery is located
upon**

**#3. Research the graves/individuals known to be
buried in the cemetery**

**#4. Keep notes, organize your research and take
photos of your research journey**

**#5. Reach out to local media, libraries, historical
societies, etc. and ask them to write a story about
your work or offer to give a presentation about your
work**

**#6. Remember that genealogical research is a
marathon, not a sprint!**

Thank you!

