

# The Cemetery

## *McLeod Plantation*

### *Historic Site*





# McLeod Plantation Historic Site

325 Country Club Drive  
Charleston, SC 29412  
(843) 762-9508

Toby Smith is the Cultural  
History Interpretation  
Coordinator for Charleston  
County Park and Recreation  
Commission.

[tsmith@ccprc.com](mailto:tsmith@ccprc.com)





# Location

- ▶ Northeast corner of Folly Road and Country Club Drive.
- ▶ To the north, is the Wappoo Creek
- ▶ To the left is Folly Road
- ▶ To the south is Country Club Drive





# Aerial view





# Brief historical overview

## 1770-1965

- First giving honor to the ancestral lands of the Kuso-Natchez, who likely settled in the area as early as 15,000 years
- 1695 map shows a house on the current grounds
- Late 18<sup>th</sup> century property belongs to the Perroneau family
- Beads date to 1700, which corresponds to the Lightwood era
- No evidence of military burials on this site but records do suggest graves further down Country Club drive
- Several families from Reconstruction era, World War 1 and II and up to the 1960s



## What has been found

- Bottles, plastic flowers, memorial holders; these items are not removed
- Most people do not have headstones; some have metal plaques
- Local groups use the space each year for Kwanza celebrations
- Descendants are kept apprised of all activities concerning the ceremony and can visit



# The Beads

Discovered  
onsite  
at the  
cemetery  
in 1996



- In 1864 William Wallace McLeod galloped off the property at McLeod, leaving in charge a young, unfree man named Stephen.
- Stephen stayed at McLeod until nearly the turn of the century. He had a son, also named Stephen, who married a woman with the same name as his mother, Harriett.
- The second Stephen and Harriet are resting in McLeod—but we can't document that his mother and father are. There are no written records of their deaths.





And the story continues...

Many years later, a descendant of the original Stephen and Harriett, Coleman, would become the last grave digger at McLeod.

When he passed away in 1965, the cemetery began a long, slow descent into tangled briars, twisted paths, and overgrown brush. It has been largely untouched since that time, except for excessive winds, storms.



# Burial practices then

- ▶ Bodies in the ground quickly  
Typically always at night
- ▶ Uniqueness in the ownership
  - ▶ The procession, songs, layout of the worship were largely decided by the family
- ▶ Not embalmed
- ▶ The settin' up
- ▶ Support of the family, sometime extended
- ▶ Themes: Escape, River Jordan, crossing over
- ▶ Important: Practices strongly influenced by West African traditions which survived



# Burial practices now

- ▶ Trimmed down
- ▶ Depending on location, still formal
- ▶ Impact of COVID
  - ▶ No family gatherings
  - ▶ No large funeral component
- ▶ Funeral homes as a family legacy
  - ▶ Fieldings Home for Funerals
  - ▶ Suburban
  - ▶ Dorothy's Home for Funerals

Digitization of funeral home records would be very beneficial



# Three locations; Three stories

## Ellen Foxcraft 1795-1847

- ▶ Location
- ▶ Back 3 acres
- ▶ Closest to
- ▶ Country Club



- Expensive design and style
- Number of letters engraved suggests wealth
- Working supposition: possibly the governess of a previous owner



# Rev. James Rivers

## 1830-1924

Rev.  
Rivers  
is  
resting  
close to  
Folly  
Road



- Longest visible life spans
- Married; wife is likely next to him
- Served in the Navy
- We believe he has living descendants in the area



# Rena McCoy

- ▶ One of the few women with a clear marker

Detail	Source
Name	Mrs Rena McCoy
Maiden Name	Doctor
Birth Date	1901
Birth Place	James Island, Charleston County, South Carolina, United States of America
Death Date	12 Feb 1961
Death Place	James Island, Charleston County, South Carolina, United States of America
Cemetery	McLeod Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place	James Island, Charleston County, South Carolina, United States of America
Has Bio?	Y
Spouse	Isaac McCoy
URL	<a href="https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/180308693/rena-mccoy">https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/180308693/rena-mccoy</a>
Save ▾	

- ▶ Passed in 1961
- ▶ Silver plaque from the funeral home
- ▶ Likely resting next to her spouse
- ▶ Her location is facing Folly Road



## What we are learning

With an estimated 572 remains, which includes probable and possible grave sites, the space at McLeod now becomes one of the largest and possibly longest used burial spaces in the area.



# Info from local obituaries

SBH-670-REV. 1968 45M-11-69

USUAL RESIDENCE  
WHERE DECEASED  
LIVED. IF DEATH  
OCCURRED IN  
INSTITUTION, GIVE  
RESIDENCE BEFORE  
ADMISSION.

PARENTS

Dr. W. Cataline  
Path Dept.  
M.U.H. Chas. so

CAUSE

Dr. W. Alston

7a. <b>Charleston</b>		7b. <b>Yes</b>		7c. <b>Charleston County Hospital</b>	
STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY)		CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY		MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (SPECIFY)	
8. <b>S. C.</b>		9. <b>U.S.A.</b>		10. <b>Divorced</b>	
11. <b>Social Security Number</b> <b>250-68-4767</b>		12. <b>Usual Occupation (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired)</b> <b>Domestic</b>		13. <b>Kind of business or industry</b>	
14a. <b>S. C.</b>		14b. <b>Charleston</b>		14c. <b>Charleston</b>	
14d. <b>Yes</b>		14e. <b>16 Kracke Street</b>		14f. <b>16 Kracke Street</b>	
FATHER—NAME		MOTHER—MAIDEN NAME		STREET AND NUMBER	
15. <b>Coleman</b>		15. <b>Forrest</b>		15. <b>Janie Walton</b>	
INFORMANT—NAME		MAILING ADDRESS		(STREET OR R.F.D. NO., CITY OR TOWN, STATE, ZIP)	
17. <b>Mrs. Janie Forrest</b>		17b. <b>16 Kracke Street, Charleston, S. C.</b>		17c. <b>16 Kracke Street, Charleston, S. C.</b>	
PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY:		[ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c)]		APPROXIMATE INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH	
18. IMMEDIATE CAUSE		18a. <b>Chronic Alcoholism</b>		18b. <b>3032</b>	
18c. <b>3032</b>		18d. <b>Natural Causes</b>		18e. <b>3032</b>	
18f. <b>3032</b>		18g. <b>3032</b>		18h. <b>3032</b>	
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS: CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO CAUSE GIVEN IN PART I (G)		AUTOPSY (YES OR NO)		IF YES WERE FINDINGS CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING CAUSE OF DEATH	
19a. <b>NO</b>		19b. <b>NO</b>		19c. <b>NO</b>	
ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, HOMICIDE, OR UNDETERMINED (SPECIFY)		DATE OF INJURY (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)		HOW INJURY OCCURRED (ENTER NATURE OF INJURY IN PART I OR PART II, ITEM 18)	
20a. <b>NO</b>		20b. <b>NO</b>		20c. <b>NO</b>	
INJURY AT WORK (SPECIFY YES OR NO)		PLACE OF INJURY AT HOME, FARM, STREET, FACTORY, OFFICE BLDG., ETC. (SPECIFY)		LOCATION (STREET OR R.F.D. NO., CITY OR TOWN, STATE)	
20d. <b>NO</b>		20e. <b>NO</b>		20f. <b>NO</b>	
CERTIFICATION—		MONTH DAY YEAR		AND LAST SAW HIM/HER ALIVE ON MONTH DAY YEAR	
21. <b>NO</b>		21a. <b>NO</b>		21b. <b>NO</b>	
21c. <b>NO</b>		21d. <b>NO</b>		21e. <b>NO</b>	
21f. <b>NO</b>		21g. <b>NO</b>		21h. <b>NO</b>	
21i. <b>NO</b>		21j. <b>NO</b>		21k. <b>NO</b>	
21l. <b>NO</b>		21m. <b>NO</b>		21n. <b>NO</b>	
21o. <b>NO</b>		21p. <b>NO</b>		21q. <b>NO</b>	
21r. <b>NO</b>		21s. <b>NO</b>		21t. <b>NO</b>	
21u. <b>NO</b>		21v. <b>NO</b>		21w. <b>NO</b>	
21x. <b>NO</b>		21y. <b>NO</b>		21z. <b>NO</b>	
21aa. <b>NO</b>		21ab. <b>NO</b>		21ac. <b>NO</b>	
21ad. <b>NO</b>		21ae. <b>NO</b>		21af. <b>NO</b>	
21ag. <b>NO</b>		21ah. <b>NO</b>		21ai. <b>NO</b>	
21aj. <b>NO</b>		21ak. <b>NO</b>		21al. <b>NO</b>	
21am. <b>NO</b>		21an. <b>NO</b>		21ao. <b>NO</b>	
21ap. <b>NO</b>		21aq. <b>NO</b>		21ar. <b>NO</b>	
21as. <b>NO</b>		21at. <b>NO</b>		21au. <b>NO</b>	
21av. <b>NO</b>		21aw. <b>NO</b>		21ax. <b>NO</b>	
21ay. <b>NO</b>		21az. <b>NO</b>		21ba. <b>NO</b>	
21bb. <b>NO</b>		21bc. <b>NO</b>		21bd. <b>NO</b>	
21be. <b>NO</b>		21bf. <b>NO</b>		21bg. <b>NO</b>	
21bh. <b>NO</b>		21bi. <b>NO</b>		21bj. <b>NO</b>	
21bk. <b>NO</b>		21bl. <b>NO</b>		21bm. <b>NO</b>	
21bn. <b>NO</b>		21bo. <b>NO</b>		21bp. <b>NO</b>	
21bq. <b>NO</b>		21br. <b>NO</b>		21bs. <b>NO</b>	
21bt. <b>NO</b>		21bu. <b>NO</b>		21bv. <b>NO</b>	
21bw. <b>NO</b>		21bx. <b>NO</b>		21by. <b>NO</b>	
21bz. <b>NO</b>		21ca. <b>NO</b>		21cb. <b>NO</b>	
21cc. <b>NO</b>		21cd. <b>NO</b>		21ce. <b>NO</b>	
21cd. <b>NO</b>		21ce. <b>NO</b>		21cf. <b>NO</b>	
21ce. <b>NO</b>		21cf. <b>NO</b>		21cg. <b>NO</b>	
21cf. <b>NO</b>		21cg. <b>NO</b>		21ch. <b>NO</b>	
21cg. <b>NO</b>		21ch. <b>NO</b>		21ci. <b>NO</b>	
21ch. <b>NO</b>		21ci. <b>NO</b>		21cj. <b>NO</b>	
21ci. <b>NO</b>		21cj. <b>NO</b>		21ck. <b>NO</b>	
21cj. <b>NO</b>		21ck. <b>NO</b>		21cl. <b>NO</b>	

Dr. W. Catalina  
Path Dept.  
M.U.H. Chas.so

P.W. Alston



# Insights from James Island Elders

- ▶ The cemetery is much larger
- ▶ People used to be buried across the street along the water line
- ▶ There were three plantations, McLeod, Dill, and Heyward and all of them used that space
- ▶ People don't like to talk about the past
- ▶ What are you doing with the information you are asking about
- ▶ Don't bother that space...they have been through enough
- ▶ Please clean it up. I want to go sit with my Mother or talk with my Father



# Insights from visiting international Elders

In May, elders from Sierra Leone visited MPHS. They blessed the cemetery and offered a number of prayers in the Twi language.



<https://photos.app.goo.gl/jhg djynAG4VxH1AdA>



# How to Reframe and Reclaim





# Why this work is critical

1. Acknowledgment
2. Connects families with their past
3. Creates a bridge from the past to the future for generations not born yet
4. Secures a space to grieve
5. Allows visitors to touch their grief concerning the institution of slavery





Finally...

This presentation is dedicated to the 74-100 plus Enslaved who lived, loved and died at McLeod from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the last burial at 1965.

We remember those with one name;

We remember those with two names;

We remember those whose names we will never know.



The Door of No Return, Isle de  
Gorée, Dakar, Senegal



NAME	BIRTH	DEATH
Frank Banks	1889 - 1895?	5/20/1962
Ben Black	1902	7/31/1941
William Brisbon (Brisbane)	1892	3/19/1939
Abraham Brown	1883	11/29/1955
Edward Frank Brown	2/7/1927	3/1/1951
Elijah Brown	1892	2/5/1961
Georganna Brown	1898	5/2/1954
Rev. John Henry Brown	1895?	3/25/1941
Rosa Burnham	1888	6/16/1938
Henry Burnham	?	1948
Stanley Coutrier Campbell	2/6/1934	6/5/1955
David Joseph Conyers	1929	6/14/1954
Harry Davis	?	1/4/1944
Robert Davis	8/15/1893	7/18/1943
William Dawson Jr.	4/22/1898	11/13/1942
Michael Eurie	7/23/1957	12/7/1957
Jerome Fickling	3/25/1957	4/23/1959
Paul Fickling	3/10/1925	12/29/1953
Harriet Forest	1878	5/5/1938
Stephen Forest	1868	12/7/1932
Coleman Forrest	1893	4/2/1964
Ellen Foxcraft	1785	4/18/1847
John Garrett	1919	2/7/1961
Elizabeth Glover	1895	8/23/1954
Willie Grant	6/8/1909	3/9/1954
Rosa (or Rosalee) Hamilton	1891?	7/3/1931
Sam Harrison	10/25/1890?	1/8/1944
Rosa Wall Haynes	1913	8/16/1960
Mary Kinlock	?	1955
Sylvia Simmons Macanic	1899	7/25/1958
Georgianna Manigault	1895	9/29/1945
Sadie Mazzyck	1906	4/13/1938
Rev. Isaac McCoy	1870	3/21/1953
Rena McCoy	1901	2/12/1961
Joseph Mitchell	1922	10/31/1942

Pompey "Hardtimes" Dawson (1821-?)

Judy Dawson (1835-?)

William Dawson (1840-?)

Charity Dawson (1841-?)

Titus Dawson (1848-?)

Mima Dawson (1851-?)

Stephney Dawson (1862-?)

Emma Dawson (1863-?)

Solomon "Saul" Sr. Delaney (1843-?)

Sallie Delaney (1845-?)

Stephen Forrest Sr. (1844-?)

Harriet Forrest (1853-?)

Gable Gathers (1831-?)

Hannah Gathers (1836-1932)

RB Green (1846-?)

Jim Heyward (1818-?)

Afy Heyward (1827-?)

Joe Heyward (1844-?)

Prince Heyward (1846-?)

Caroline Heyward (1860-?)

Julia Heyward (1846-?)

Daniel McLeod (1848)

Isabelle Pinckney (1828)

James Rivers (1830-?)

Robert Robinson (1810-?)

Sylvia Robinson (1820-?)

Eaton Robinson (1822-?)

Jacob Robinson (1844-?)

Joseph Robinson (1844-?)

Sharper Robinson (1853-?)

Cuffy Robinson (1854 - ?)

Cinderella Robinson (1856-?)

Rachel Robinson (1857-?)

Thomas Robinson (1859-?)

Robert Robinson (1859-?)

Rose Robinson (1860-?)

Amelia Smith (1800-?)

Syphax (1807-?)

Beck (1807)

Tony (1822)

Ben (1827)

Rose (1838-?)

child of Rose (1861-?)

William (1834-?)

York (1828-?)

Molly (1837-?)

Abram (1837)

Charles (1813-1863)

Delia and her unrecorded children

Peggy and her children (unnamed)

Sophy

Mariah

Rachel

Cephas

Patience

Harriet

Liddy

Indy

BE LAID TO REST

GARDEN

NAME	BIRTH	DEATH
Benjamin Monroe	11/2/1884	12/25/1946
Charity Monroe	1880	10/18/1935
Mary Monroe	7/10/1890	8/2/1948
Dianna Moore	1886	3/8/1951
James Moore	1/21/1913	3/16/1954
Emily "Emma" Dawson Nelson	1895	8/10/1955
David Pinckney	1892-1893?	12/12/1954
Grace Pinckney	1891	12/16/1950
Arthur Rivers	1892	3/17/1932
Dorothy Rivers	1921	11/4/1956
Rev. James Rivers	1830	1/19/1924
William Rivers	1949	?
Eliza Robinson	1902	4/2/1949
Elizabeth Robinson	1917	2/1/1951
Evelyn Robinson	?	1962
Isiah Robinson	1908	9/19/1958
Jacob Robinson	1844	6/20/1920
Julius Robinson	1914	4/11/1951
Julius Robinson	1895	11/13/1965
Louis Robinson	2/10/1905	5/1/1945
McKeever Robinson	1901	2/10/1937
Nathaniel Rivers Robinson	1939	5/24/1955
Marion Scott Jr.	6/10/1941	1/31/1953
Ida Simmons	1902	1/8/1959
John Simmons (Simons)	1891	5/28/1935
Parris Simmons	1882	6/7/1938
Bernice Louise Timmons	3/17/1942	1/29/1960
Frank Timmons	?	6/20/1950
Henry Timmons	1901	5/21/1951
Henry Timmons	1942	10/6/1952
Abram Walton	1920	4/9/1960
Jerry Watson	4/12/1935	?
Amelia Whaley	10/2/1885	8/3/1962
John Wilson	?	?