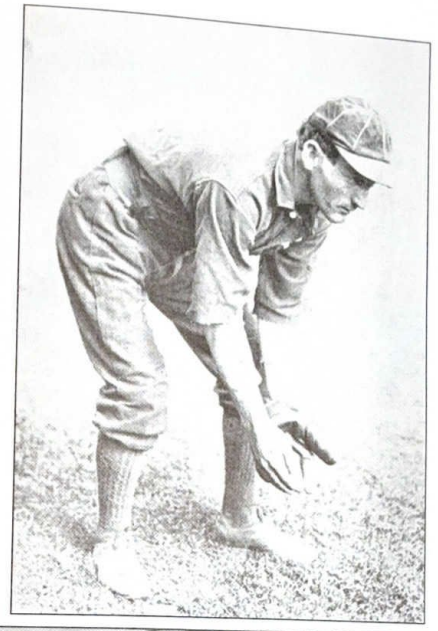
GREENVILLE TEXTILE MILL CEMETERIES

An Overview

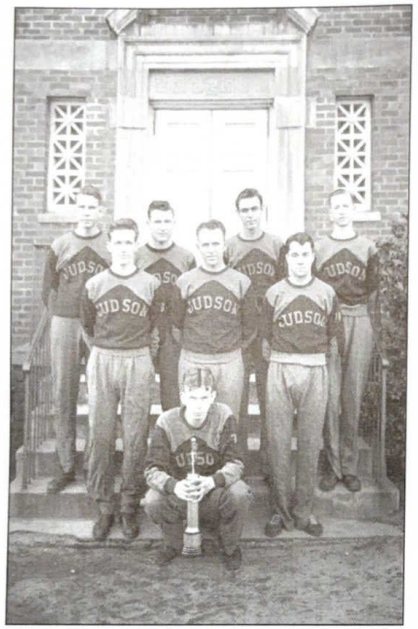
MILLWALK
HISTORIC MILLWALK
COURTESY OF
GREENVILLE TEXTILE
HERITAGE SOCIETY
WOODSIDE

WOODSIDE FREE SCHOOL. Woodside Cotton Mill Company built its first school in the village, which was a three-teacher schoolhouse attended by 150 of the village's 300 children. In 1910, the mill built the 7,200-square-foot two-story brick structure seen here. A three-story 13,200-square-foot building was added in 1926. The adjacent structure is the YMCA building, erected in 1910 at a cost of $10,000. (Courtesy of the John Hall Collection, Greenville County Library System.)

James "Champ" Osteen. In 1883, at the age of six, James "Champ" Osteen's family moved from western North Carolina to Piedmont for employment at the mill. When he was 15, Champ had the opportunity to play baseball for Piedmont Mill after the first baseman sprained his ankle. He continued to play for the team, both as first baseman and shortstop. During his final year with the team in 1899, he helped Piedmont have a 19-6 record and win the textile league championship. After attending and playing for Erskine, he went on to play for major league teams such as the Washington Senators in 1903 and the New York Highlanders in 1904. (Courtesy of Out of the Park Baseball.)



Piedmont Rangers Baseball Team. The 1937 team pictured here were 13-11 in the King Cotton League. From left to right are (first row) J.W. Rampey, Sloan "Fussy" Terry, Joe Ed Fleming, Leroy Anderson, Ned Moore, and Earl Cooper; (second row) Tom Pack, John Emery, Jerry Underwood, "Coot" Henderson, Dave Galloway, Bennett Reeves, and Ray Darnell. (Courtesy of the Piedmont History Collection, Greenville County Library System.)



Judson Mill Basketball. Judson became involved in the Southern Textile Basketball League in 1925. The mill fielded five teams: three boys' and two girls'. The team colors were green and white. Seen here are photographs of the Southern Textile Basketball League winning teams. (Both, courtesy of the Coxe Collection, Greenville County Historical Society.)

RENFREW BROWNIE SCOUTS. Renfrew Bleachery sponsored a troop of Girl Scout Brownies. Seen dressed in uniform are, from left to right (first row) Anne Murphy and Betty Clair Bledsoe; (second row) Nell Anderson, Ann Nuckles, Margaret Lockaby, and Peggy McDowell; (third row) Elizabeth Getaz, Barbara Worrell, and Dora Jane Murphy. (Courtesy of the Travelers Rest Historical Society Collection, Greenville County Library System.)

BRANDON BOY SCOUT TROOP. Brandon Mill built a log cabin for South Carolina's first Boy Scout troop. The cabin is located at the bottom of the hill behind the mill at the corner of Jones and Waco Streets. The cabin still stands today. (Courtesy of the Brandon Historical Society Collection, Greenville County Library System.)

Leda Young

Pleasant Valley Connection

Christopher Harvey

Woodside Cemetery

DOVER

JOHN A
MARRETT
JUNE 21, 1898

Woodside, other mill village cemeteries need care

By Judith Bainbridge
Contributing Writer

On a warm and cloudless spring morning, the old cemetery is serene. Huge trees shade it; a tall dogwood stands in its center; violets and buttercups cover the ground; birds sing.

Closer observation, however, reveals the impact of years of neglect at Woodside Cemetery.

Plastic water bottles, aluminum soda cans, beer bottles and snack wrappers litter the undergrowth. Old headstones are broken, many propped up against the trees or among the shrubs that have grown up in a once sacred space. Brambles and vines cover many graves.

Located at the farthest end of the last street in the old Woodside Mill village behind Carlton Roofing Co. on Bramlett Road, the cemetery has in some ways been fortunate. Although it is not fenced, vandalism seems minimal, perhaps because homes surround it.

And while the graves remember lives that ended decades ago, it is not totally overgrown, and there are signs of visitors in the not-too-distant past. Irises have been planted and an artificial flower lies near one grave; faded plastic hydrangeas decorate another.

Woodside Mill's cemetery, like those of Greenville's other mill villages, was once a management responsibility. Just as mills supplied homes, schools, churches, roads and rec-

JUDITH BAINBRIDGE
HERITAGE

reation for the living, they also provided a place for the dead. Springwood Cemetery plots cost $100, far too expensive for mill workers earning $7 to $15 a week. Mill churches had small lots and few resources. It was up to company executives to allocate a site.

Ten years after its opening in 1903, 2,000 people lived in the Woodside community. While most residents were healthy adults, death frequently struck their babies and grandparents. Carved grave stones at the cemetery mark those lives. Most date from about 1907 to the early 1920s; but one, sitting less than six feet from the street, comes later.

It reads "Clara Fay, Daughter of R.H. and Maggie Pace, May 12, 1929-May 15, 1929, Darling, we miss you." Another, further in, is Willie Lee Jones, 1912-1914, who was "Gone but not forgotten." But there are also gravestones like Biddie Tims's, 1831-1914, which is simply inscribed "At rest."

While it is difficult to judge the number of bodies interred here because of the undergrowth, broken stones and unmarked plots, it seems likely that there might have been 100. A surprising number, given the cost of inscribed headstones, are fairly elaborate.

Most Greenville mills had similar burying places, but their current states are quite different. Some have been adopted by churches. The old Mills Mill Cemetery, for example, is located in a separately fenced area within the Welcome Baptist Church Cemetery on White Horse Road.

Riverside Holiness Baptist Church has incorporated Monaghan Mill burials into its cemetery. Judson graves (together with far older graves of the Paris and Townes family) are now a part of Greater Mount Calvary Baptist Church's cemetery just off Easley Bridge Road. The old Poe Mill cemetery at Hammett and 7th Avenue at the end of the Poe community has been sanitized by Boulevard Baptist Church. The cemetery and its gravestones have been leveled, grassed over and the site fenced in.

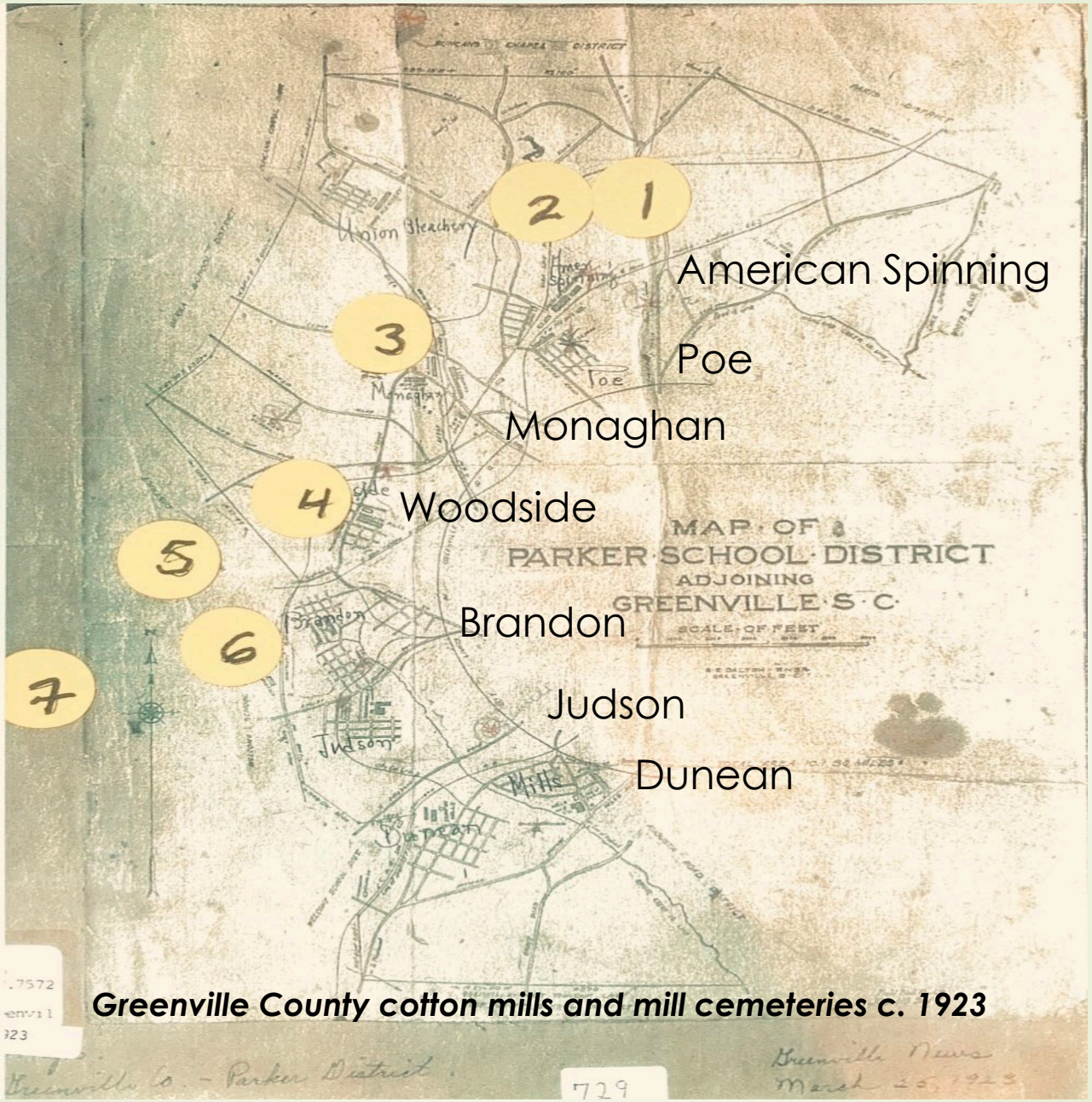
The larger (236 identified graves) American Spinning Cemetery on Fair Street off the Poinsett Highway is the only mill village cemetery run by its own cemetery association. Like many of these burial grounds, it still has occasional new interments. Although it is somewhat overgrown, it is neatly fenced and shows relatively recent care.

Brandon Mill graves are spread about. Some evi-

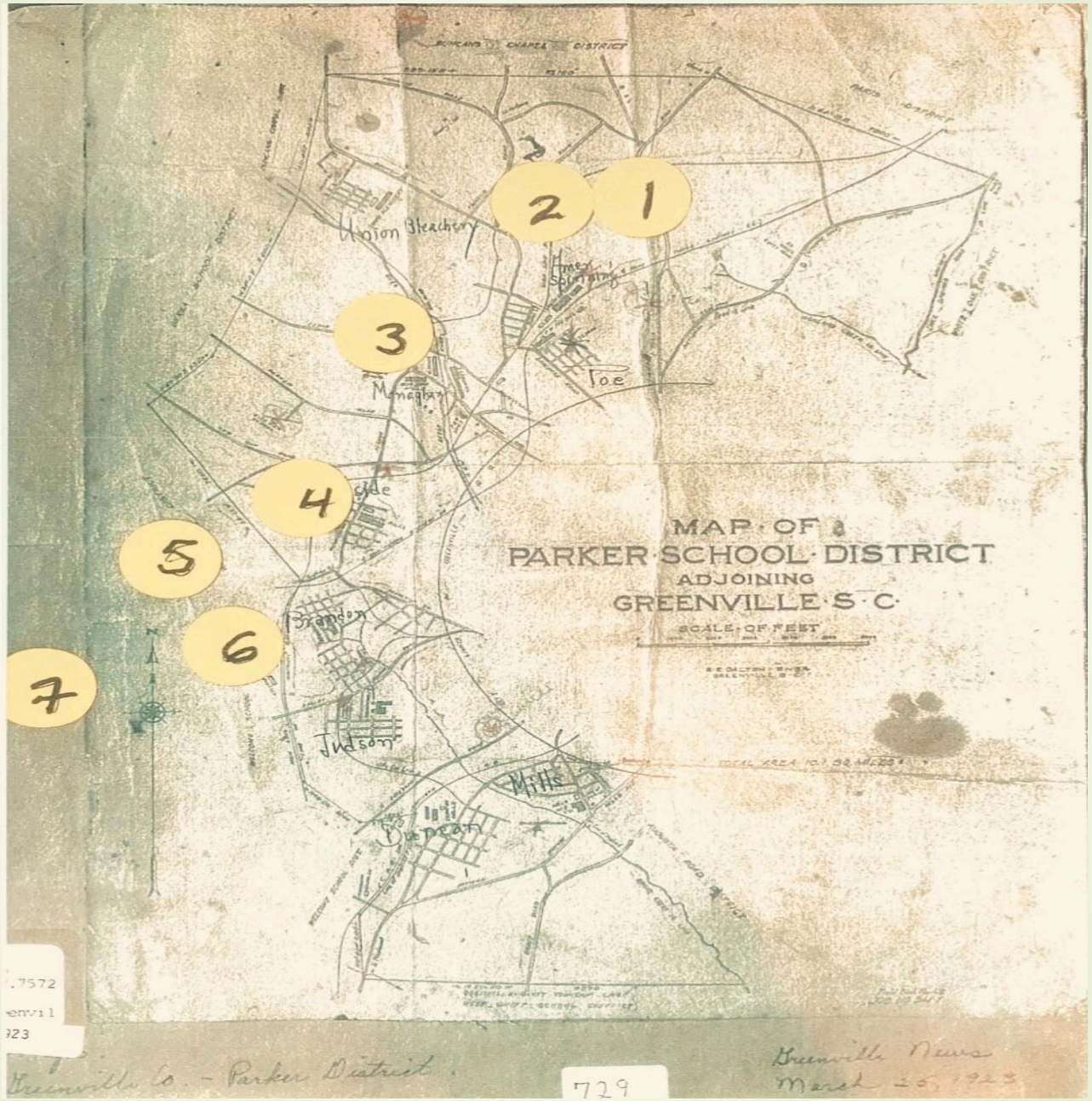
See WOODSIDE on page 15

Cemeteries - 2.

p. 2



Greenville County cotton mills and mill cemeteries c. 1923


MAP OF
PARKER SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADJOINING
GREENVILLE S.C.
SCALE OF FEET
Union Bleachery
Judson
Mills
Brandon
Duncan
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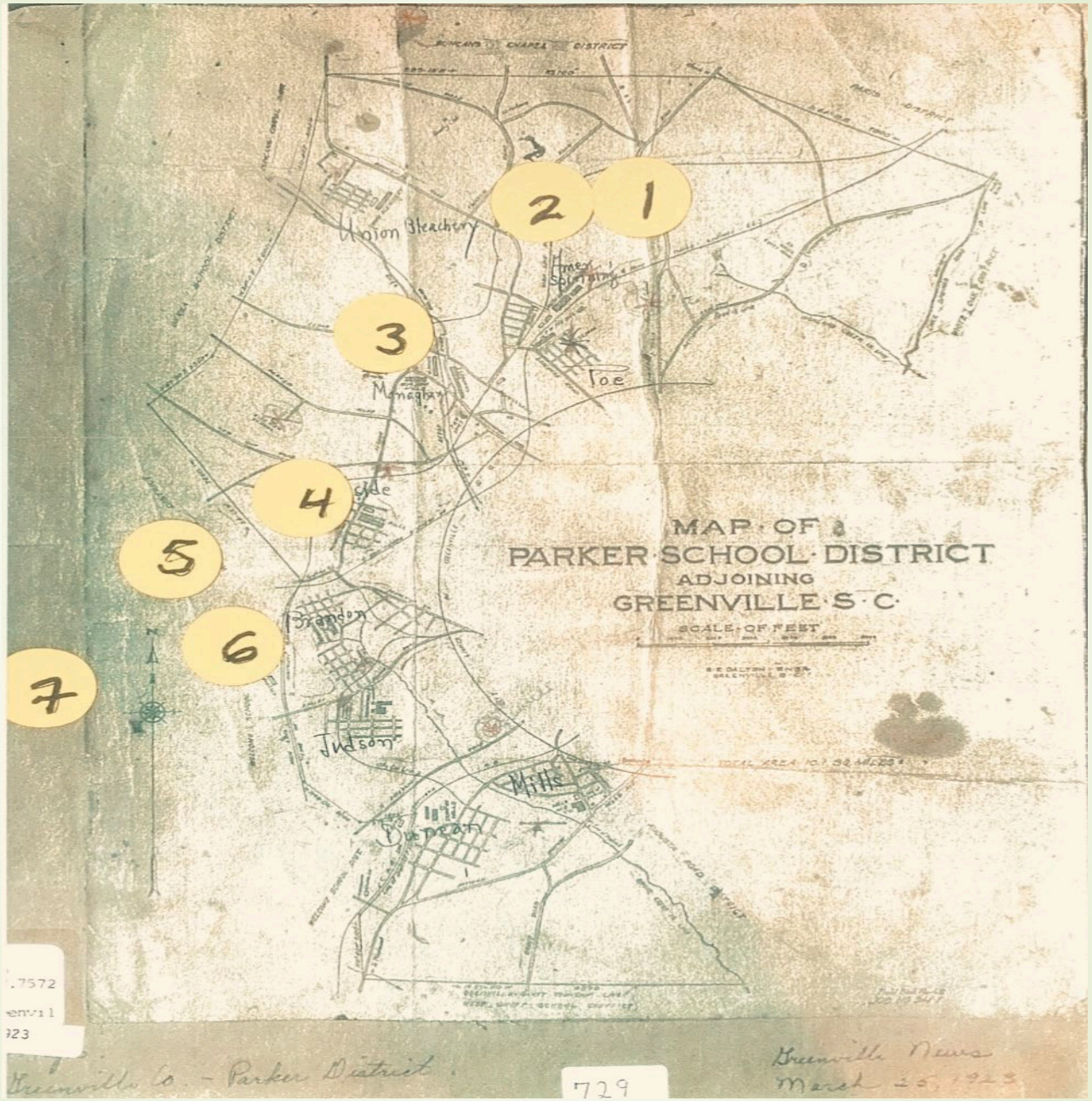
Greenville Co. - Parker District.
Greenville News
March 26, 1923

LIST OF IDENTIFIABLE GRAVES
ON PROPERTY OF
BOULEVARD BAPTIST CHURCH
POE COMMUNITY, GREENVILLE CO., S. C.
DAUGHTER OF
D.N. AND L.E. MORGAN
1898-1912
EUGENE MORGAN
1907-1911
JAMES S. COXIE
1869-1907
WALTER RUTLEDGE
1899-1900
WM. S. TAYLOR
G.O. HANSON
1820-1905
J. A. PADGETT
1857-1916
VIOLA PADGETT
1889-1907
ALTHEA LANDRETH
1900-1904
GEO. UNDERWOOD
1909
MATTIE CARTER
1917
LEWIS C. BALL
1915-1917
JESSE F. BALL
1918-1917
HENRY PADGETT
1882-1910
ROSA O. AIKEN
1913-1913
BESSIE ANDERS
1904-1905
MARY ELLISON FEW
1918-1918
TIMOTHY TOBIN SMITH
1861-1914
NOAH NEWTON
1913-1916
AMIE REDDEN
1904-1905
MAMIE REDDEN
1904-1905
BERTIE BRUCE BRIGHT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JOE L. SON OF
J. J. & LEILA
BAYTIE
DEC. 12, 1928
JAN. 11, 1939
God's ways are just

ETHEL COKER
COHENS
AUG. 7 1890
MAR. 27 1967

JACK
SON OF
MR. & MRS.
J. ROBERTS
JUNE 16 1925
NOV 21 1932

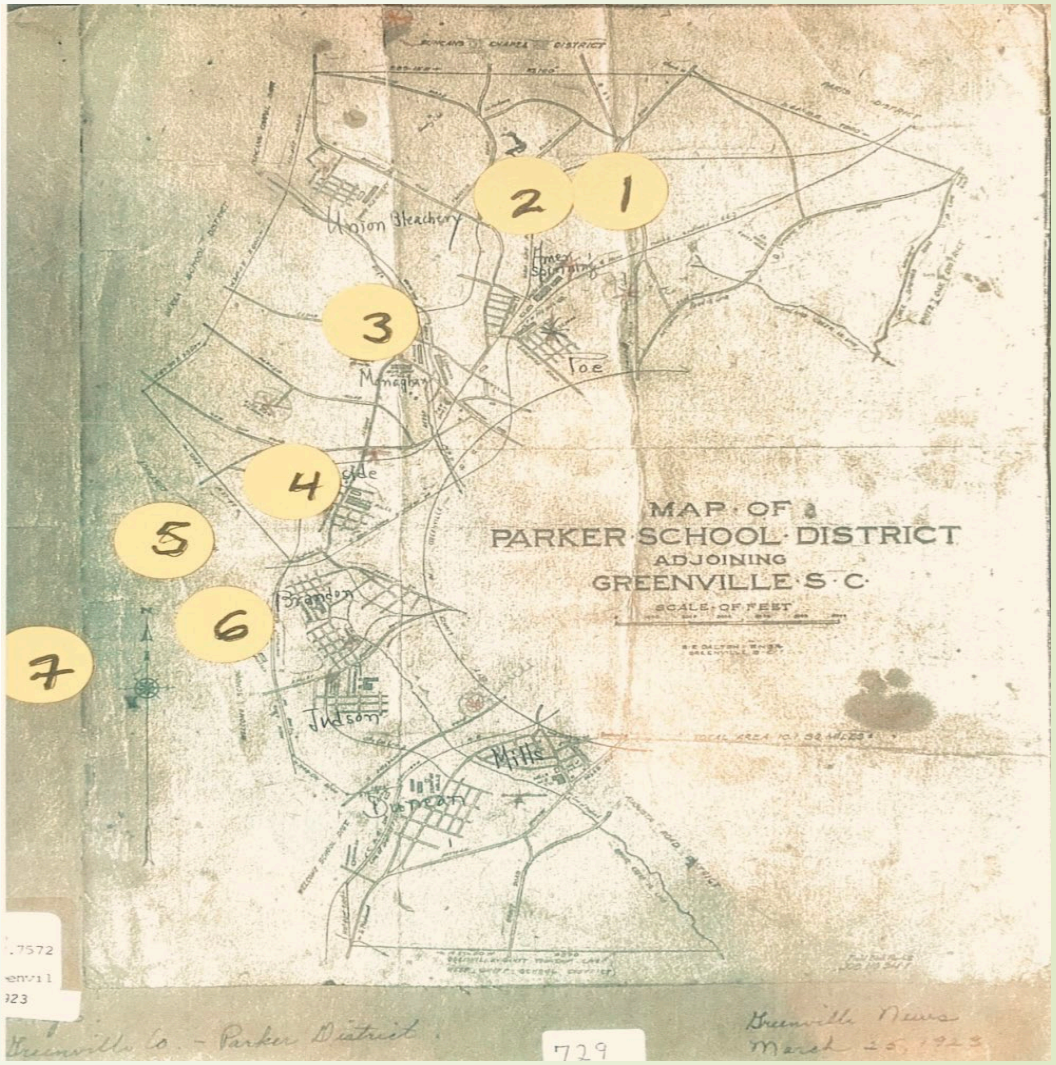
HILLARD
SON OF
W. E. & S. J.
McCARSON
AUG. 28, 1906
SEPT. 17, 1917

CHURCH CARETAKERS

3. Monaghan Mill
Riverside Cemetery

5. Mills Mill
Welcome Baptist Cemetery

7. Judson Mill
Greater Mount Calvary
Baptist Cemetery

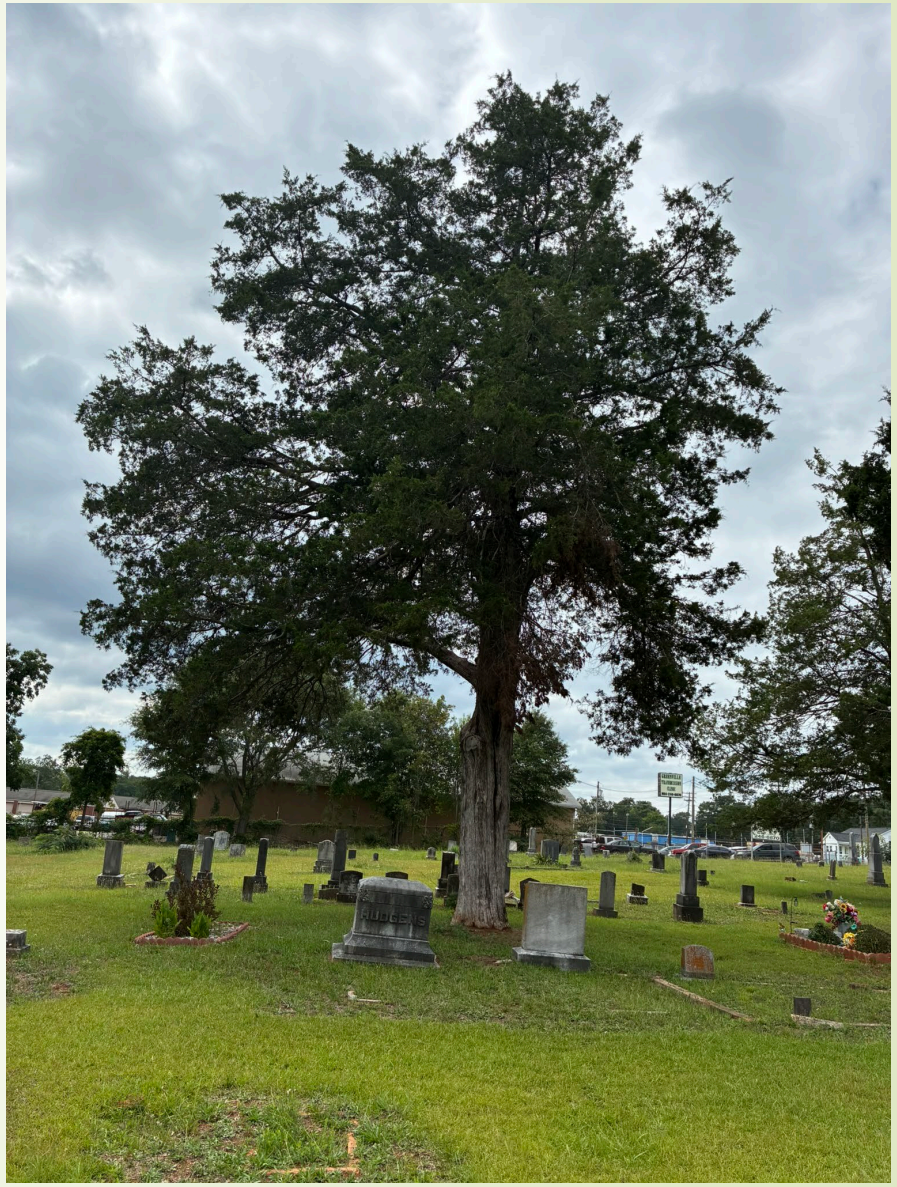


Monaghan Mill
Riverside Cemetery

MONAGHAN PLANT

ETTER
FEB. 25 1897
JAN. 30 1902

RIVERSIDE



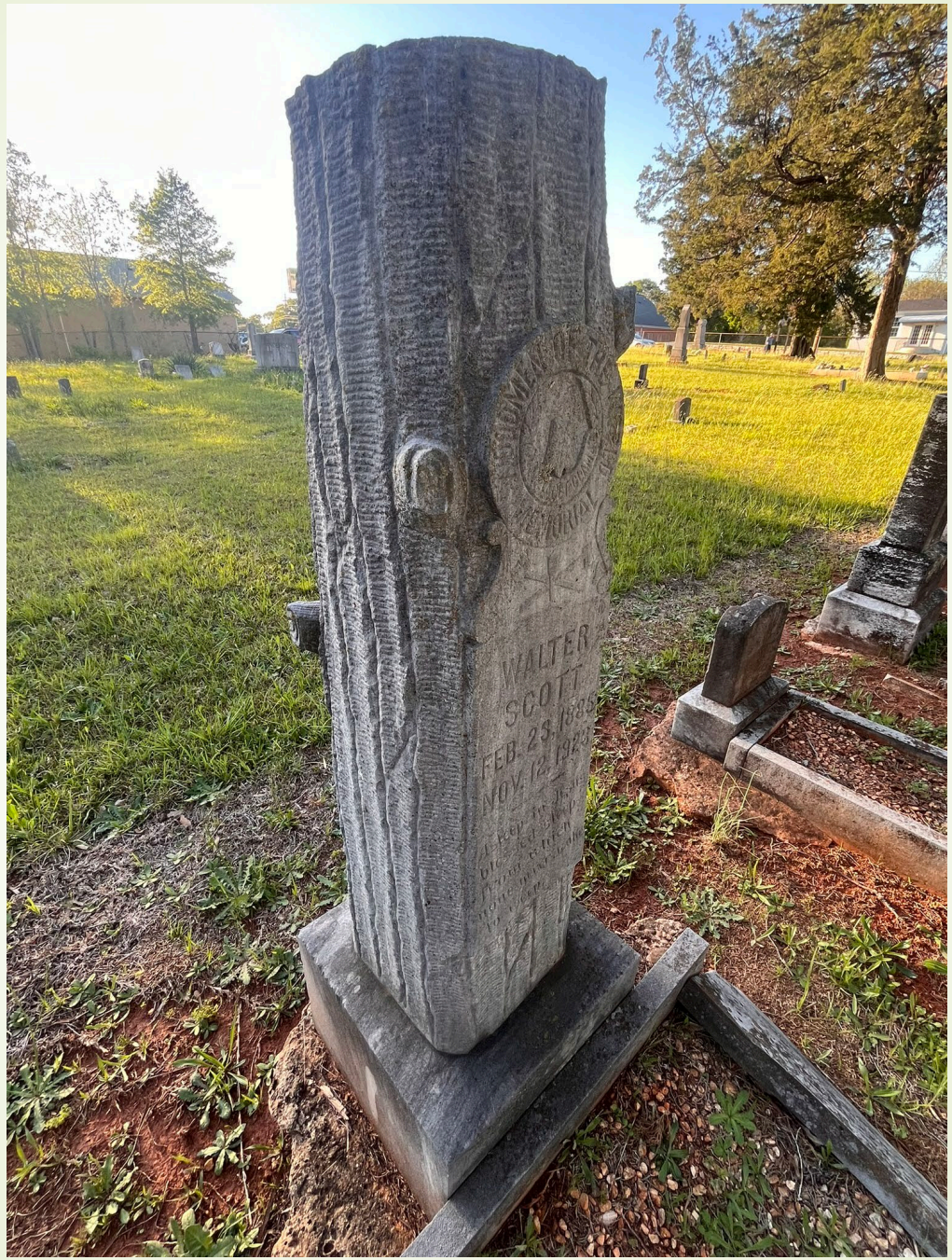
ANA DELIA
ALVARADO LANDA
APRIL 7, 1976
JUNE 8, 2015

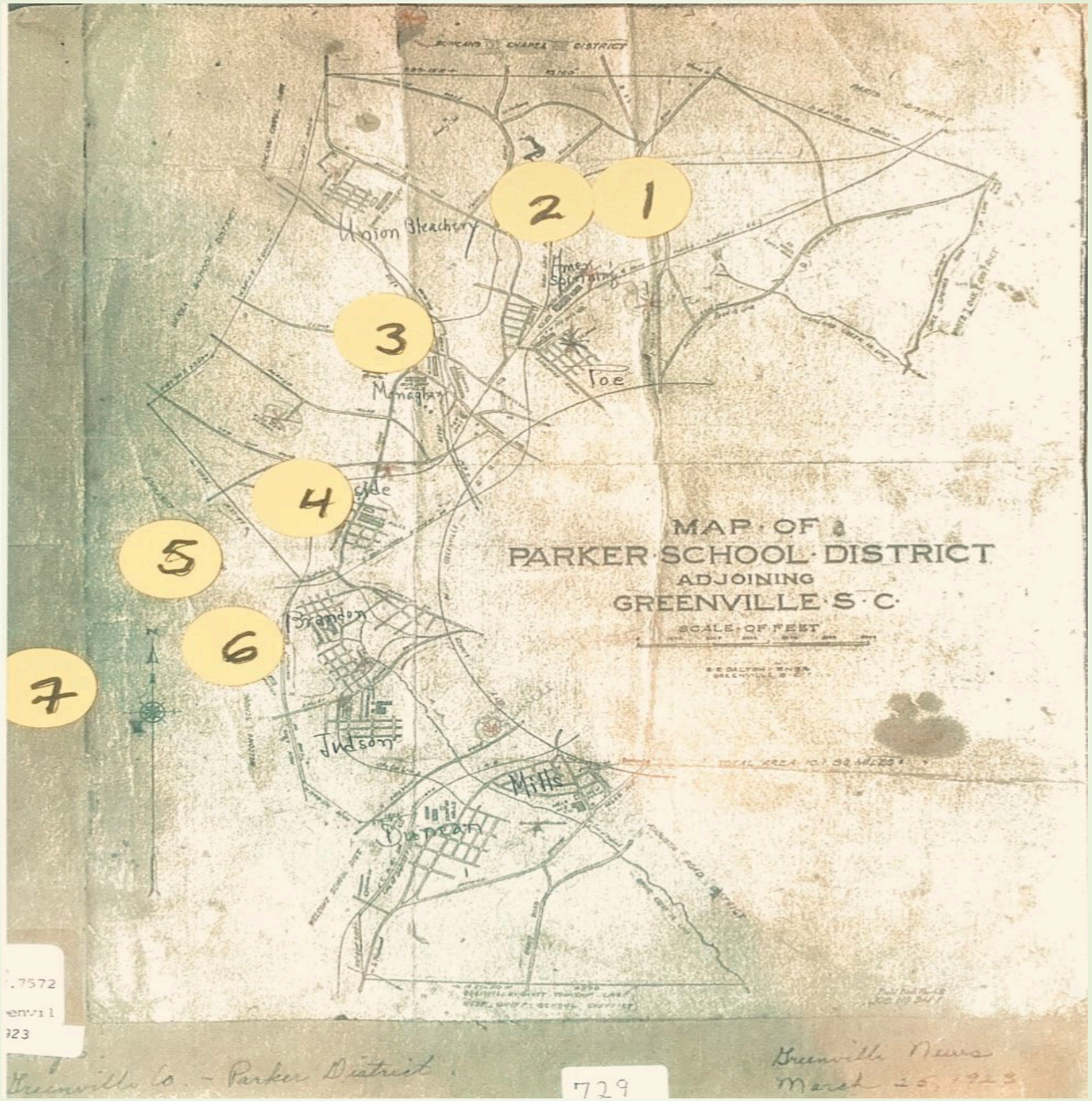
Gloria
Hernández
Oct. 11, 1953-Ene. 27, 2012

Woodsman of the World

MODERN WOODMEN OF THE WORLD
DUM TACET CLAMAT
CHARLES N.
TIPTON
APR. 19, 1857
DEC. 20, 1926
Upright and just he
was in all his ways.
TIPTON

IN MEMORIAM
SUPREME FOREST WOODMEN CIRCLE
NANCIE
JANE
MORGAN
FEB. 14, 1869
APR. 14, 1927


WALTER
SCOTT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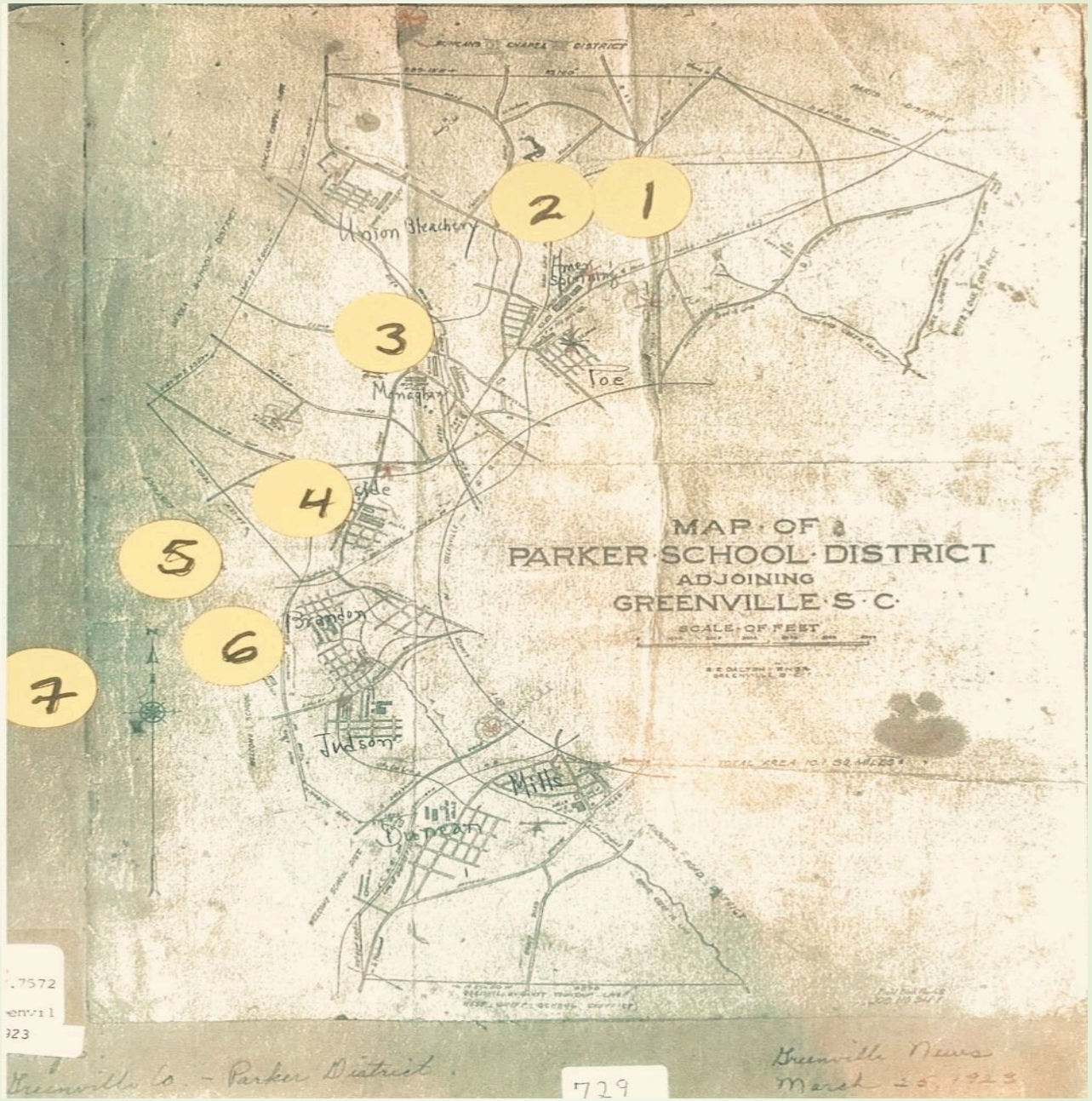
Mills Mill

Welcome Baptist Church

MOODY
WILLIAM JACKSON MOODY
SEPT. 7, 1884 — MAY 8, 1944
HIS WIFE
NETTIE JULLIAN
DEC. 29, 1884 — APR. 9, 1937

HELEN LUCILE
DAU. OF
MR.&MRS.J.H.GREENE.
MAR. 6, 1928.
JUNE 13, 1929.
Our loved one.

ATTIE HUSKERSON
JULY 3. 1843
JAN. 5. 1908
SHE WAS A TENDER LOVING MOTHER HER
AND IN HER LIFE GOD DID FEAR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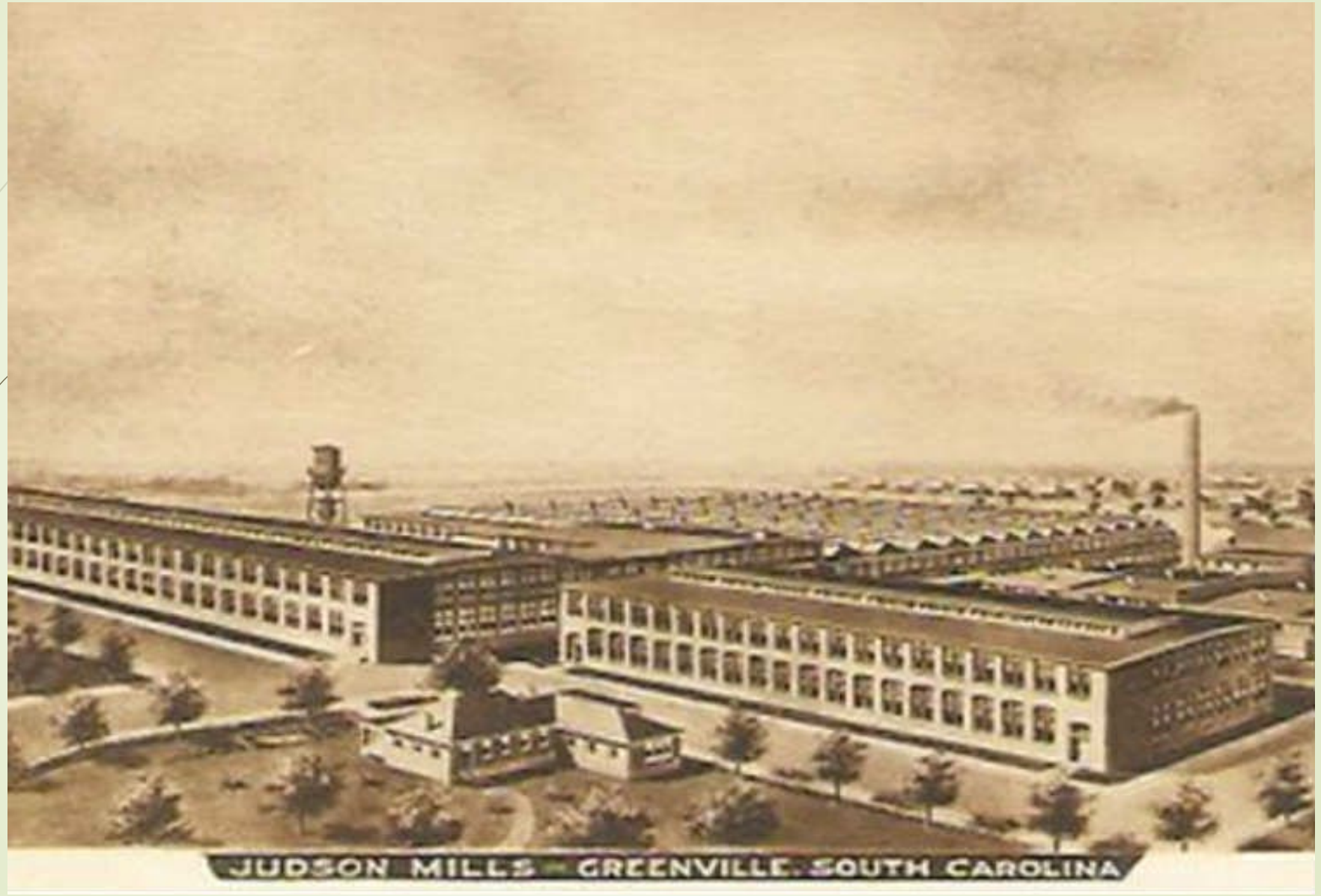
Judson Mill

Greater Mount Calvary Baptist Cemetery


JUDSON MILLS — GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

GREATER MOUNT
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
CEMETERY

FANNY
AUGUSTA
TOWNES

M. E
SEIGLER
1856 1932

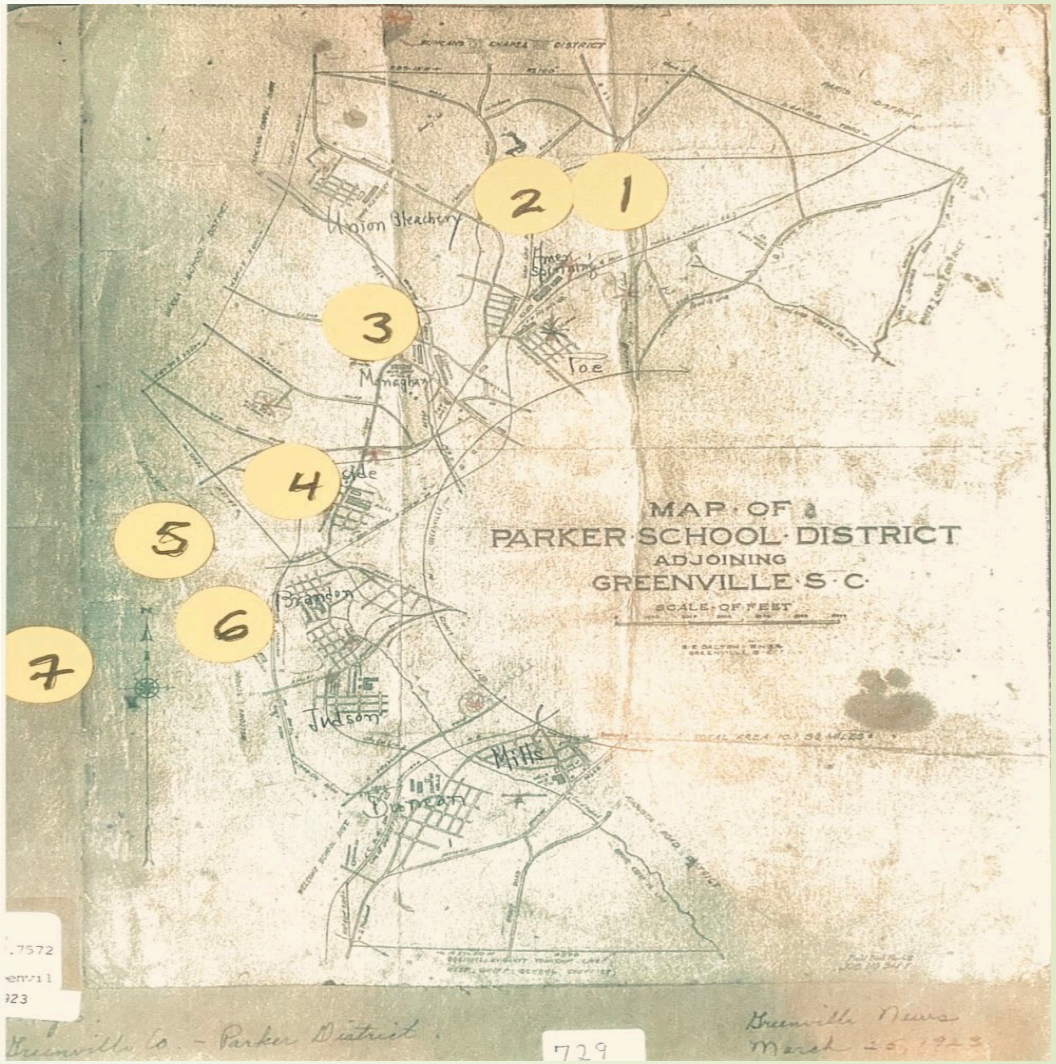
NO OFFICIAL CARETAKERS

4. Woodside Mill

Woodside Mill Cemetery

6. Brandon Mill

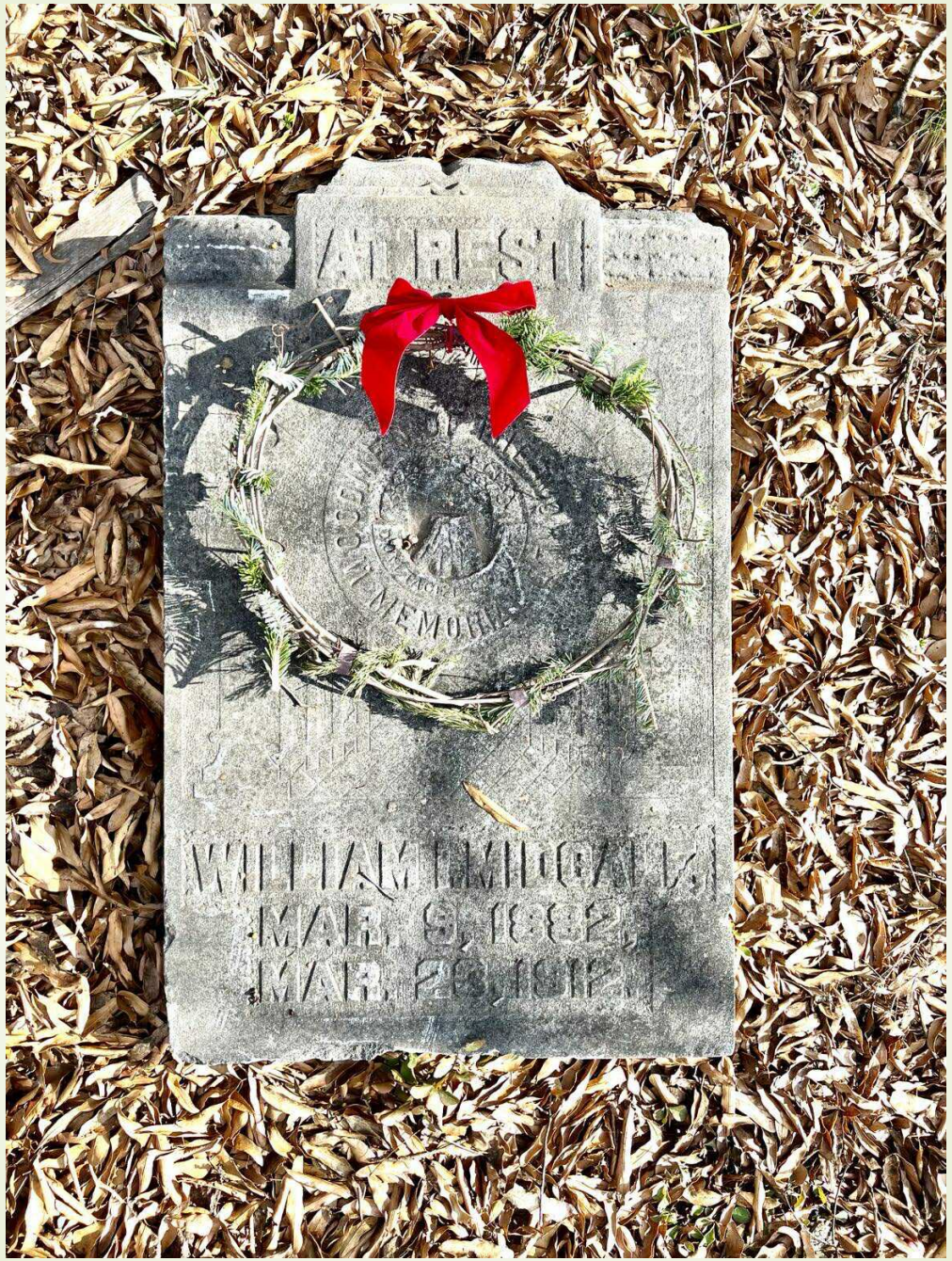
Brandon Mill Cemetery



Woodside Mill

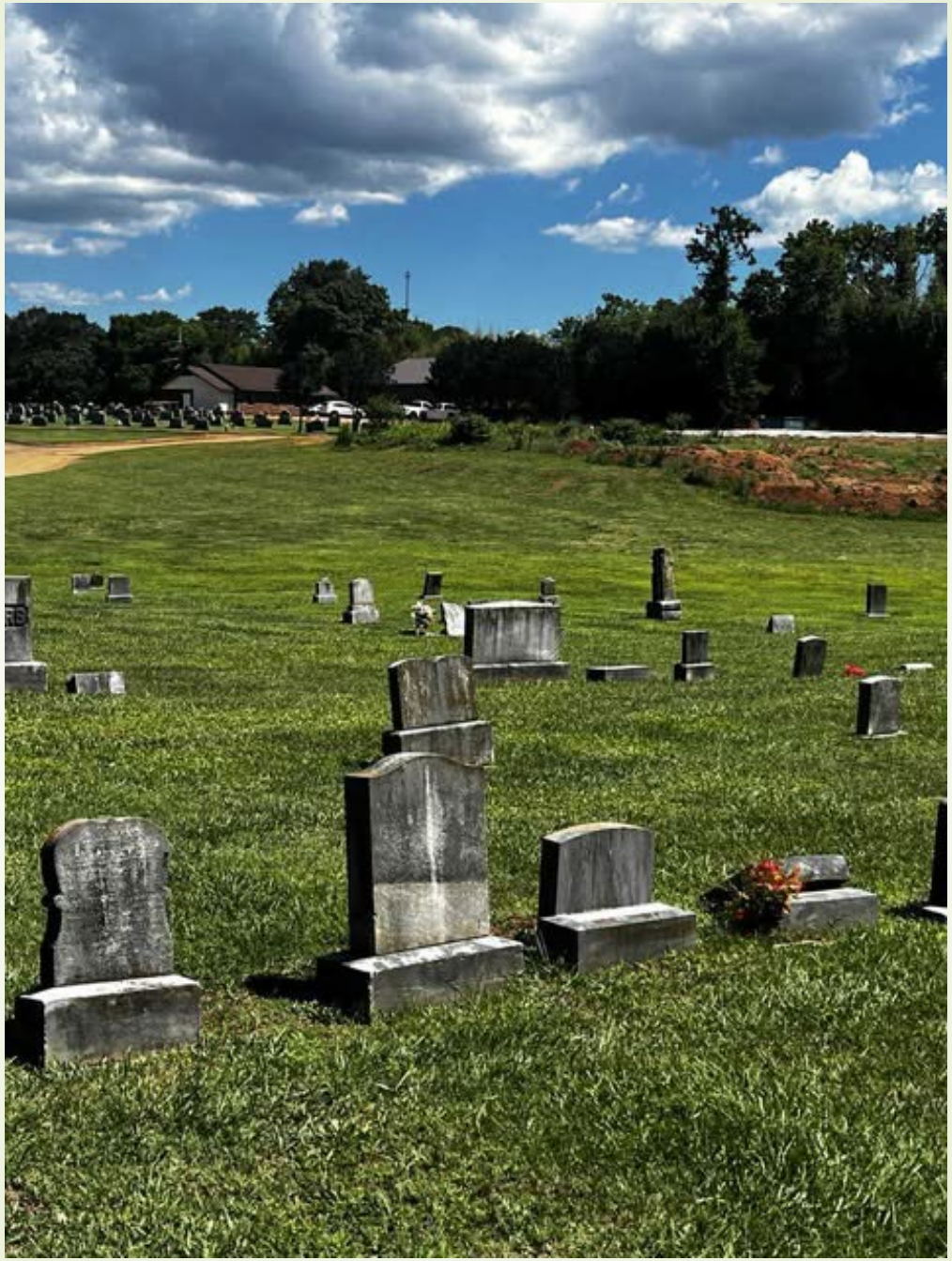
Woodside Mill Cemetery

THE LOFTS AT WOODSIDE MIL



Brandon Mill

Brandon Mill Cemetery



BEYOND THE UPSTATE

MILL AS CARETAKER

Enoree, South Carolina

Inman Mill

Inman Mill Cemetery

WARDELL
EDWARDS
ANNIE JANE
SEPT. 2, 1884
OCT. 27, 1939

THIS CEMETERY IS
PRIVATE PROPERTY
PLEASE CONTACT INMAN MILLS
FOR BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS
864-472-2121

Slater-Marietta, South Carolina

Slater Mill (?)

Slater Mill Cemetery

GOODWIN
GOODWIN

SANITIZED CEMETERY

Cayce, South Carolina

Guignard Brickworks

Guignard Cemetery

historic burials could be present in the area despite the more modern disturbance caused by the construction of the neighborhood and associated utilities. However, historic research did not provide any indication that burials were exhumed and relocated to another cemetery.

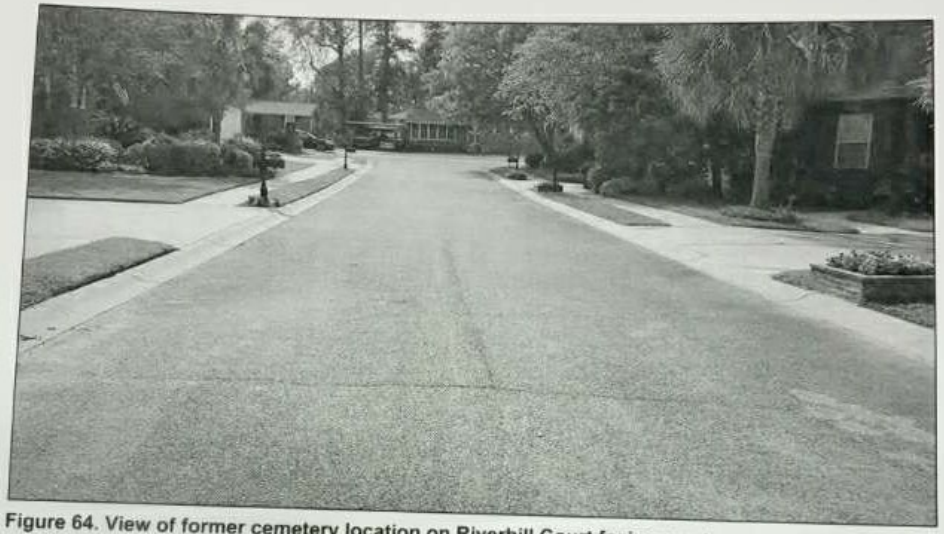


Figure 64. View of former cemetery location on Riverhill Court facing west.

Figure 65. View of homes on the north side of Riverhill Court.

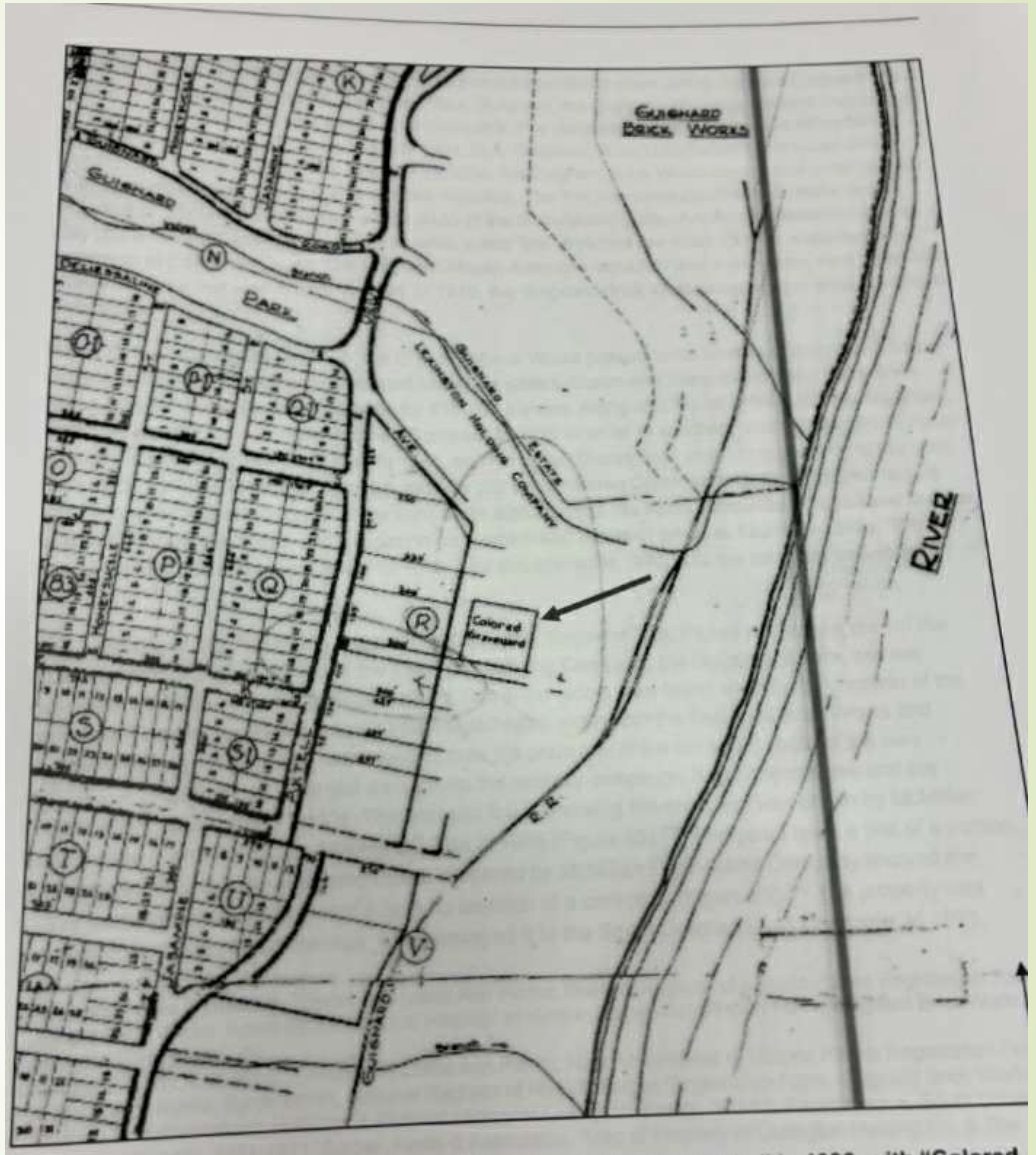
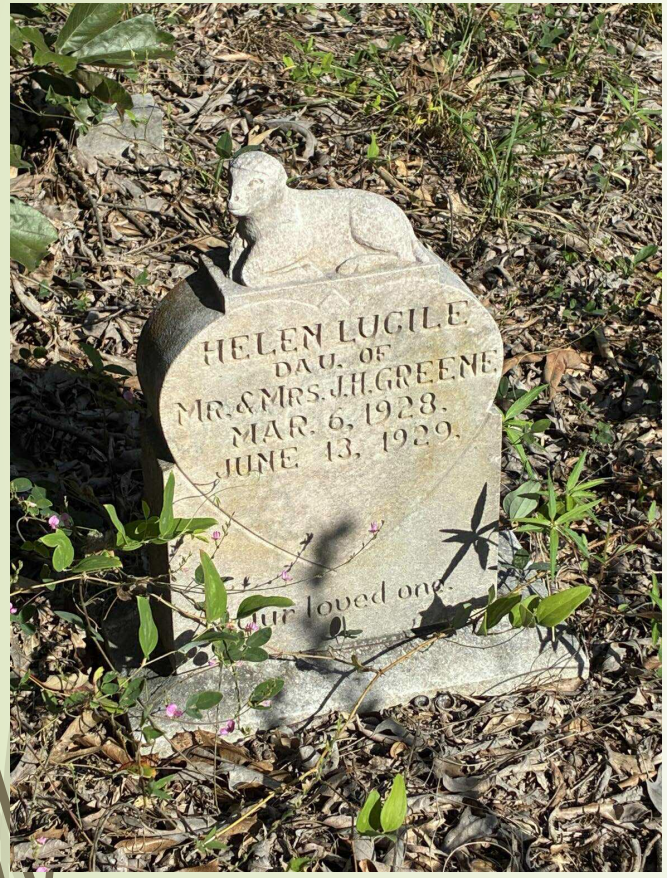


Figure 60. Portion of map of Guignard holdings platted by H.M. Pickell in 1936, with "Colored Graveyard" denoted with a red arrow.[219]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Pleasant valley Community Center

Leda Young

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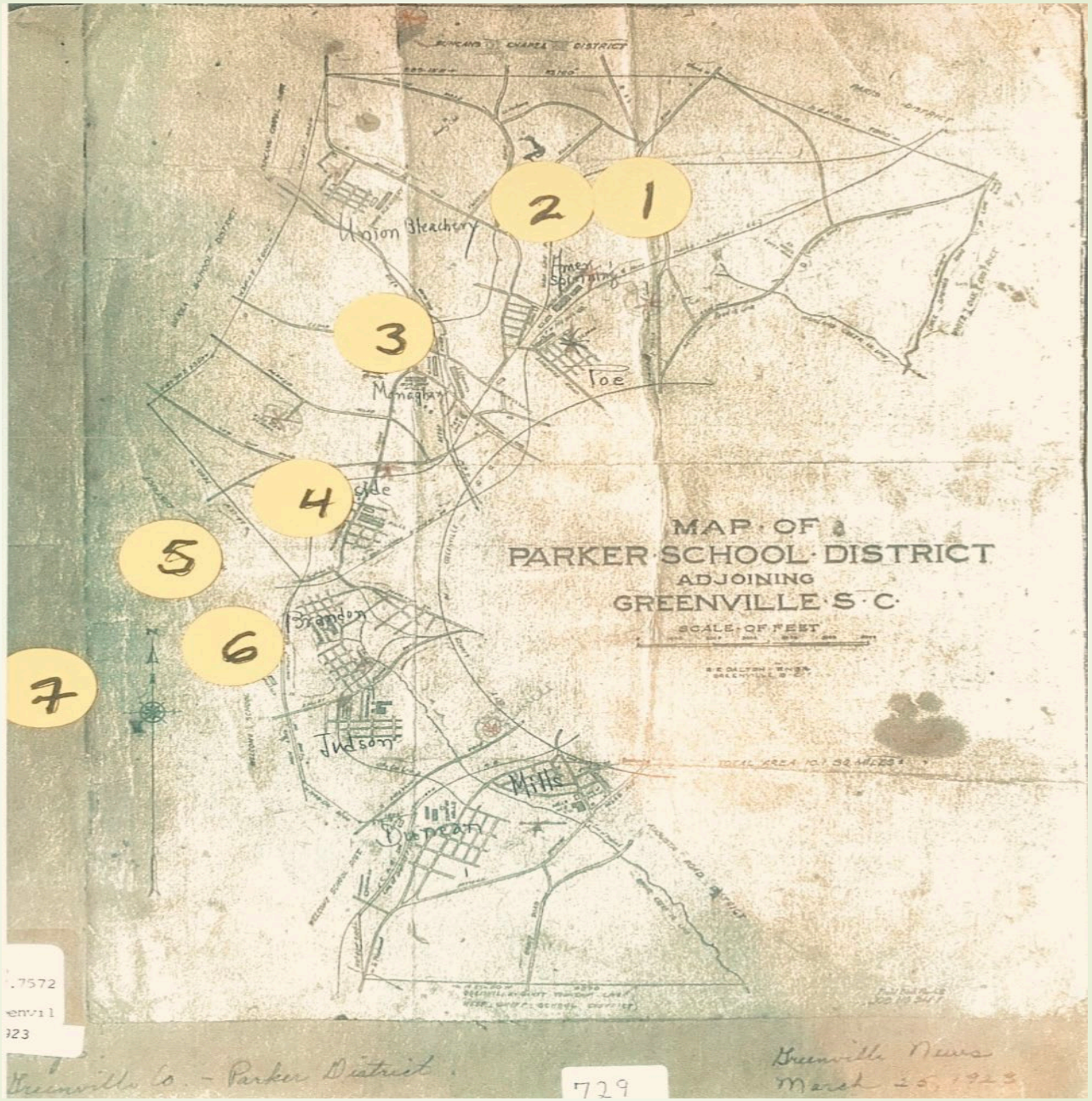
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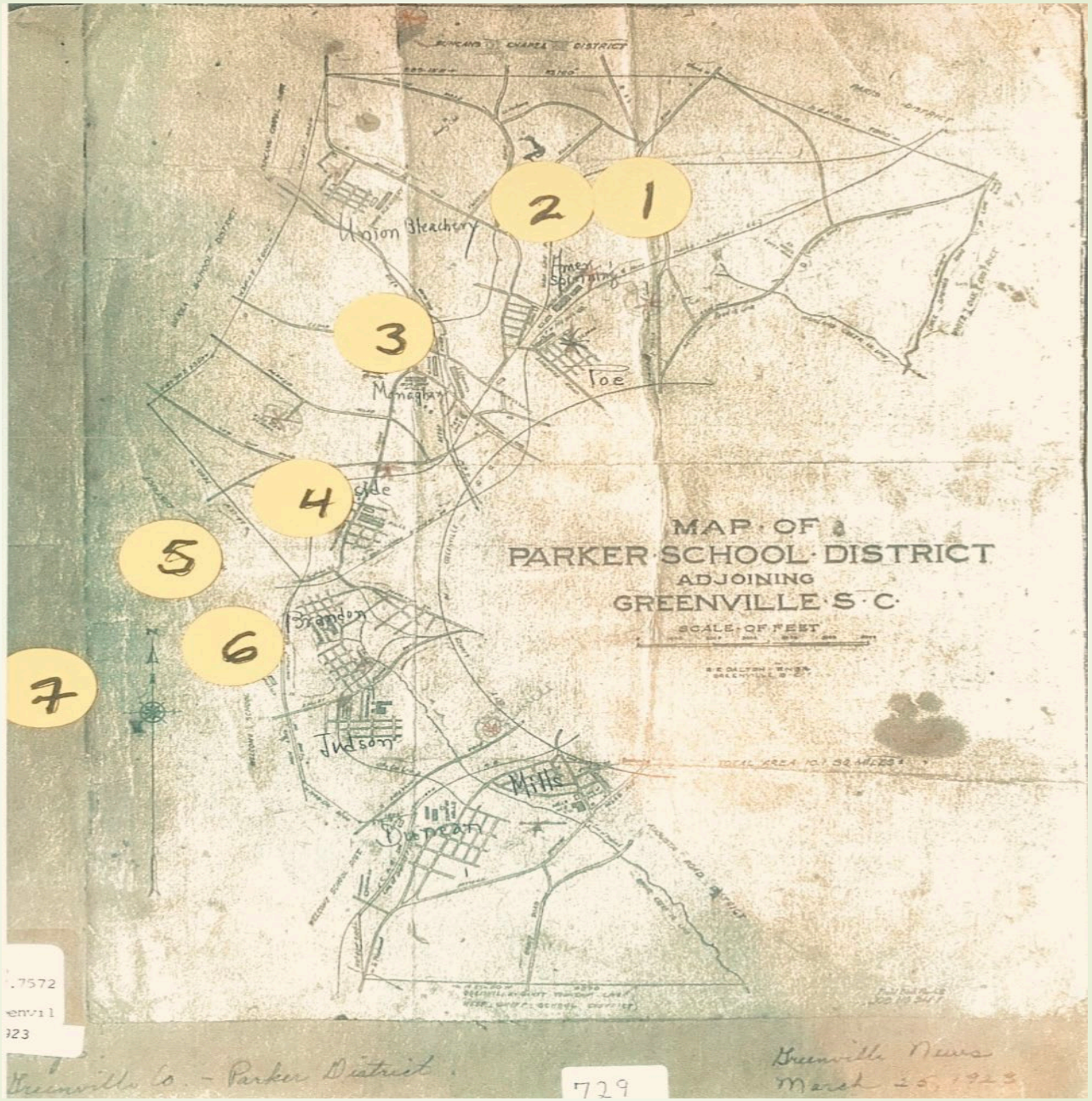
PLANT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