Johnson Grove Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

Alvin D. Jackson
Willow Hill Heritage and Renaissance Center

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Recommended Citation
Jackson, Alvin D., "Johnson Grove Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery" (2019). Willow Hill Cemeteries-Tour Programs. 10.
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**Early History**

The Johnson Grove Missionary Baptist Church was organized on September 9, 1884 in Portal, Ga., Bulloch County, by Rev. Will Thomas and members from the Skull Creek Baptist Church: Bro. Dan Johnson, Sis. Lizzie Johnson, Sis. Lizzie Bostic, Sis. Sinie Lane, Sis. Susie Johnson, Sis. Lizzie Bell and Sis. Rosa Harris. After the organization, the 1st pastor, Rev. William Thomas was called and he served for two years. During that time, Bro. Newkirt was ordained as deacon. Services were held in an old log church until 1895 when a frame building was started. Although the church had been organized earlier, it was not dedicated until the 2nd Sunday in May 1913. In 1923 they began building the third Church. Under the administration of Rev. J.C. Newkirt, the church went from one-month service to four services a month and the present church was built in 2001. The old church was demolished in April 2003.


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St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery and Lee Cemetery will be toured on June 22, 2019.

**“IF THESE CEMETERIES COULD TALK”**

Johnson Grove Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery
149 Johnson Grove Church Road (Portal, GA)

**Saturday, May 18, 2019**
9:00 AM

SPONSORED BY:
Willow Hill Heritage and Renaissance Center
4235 Willow Hill Road, Portal GA

*Commemoration of 400 years of African American History* (1619-2019)
SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Greetings ........................................... Dr. Alvin Jackson
Willow Hill Heritage & Renaissance Center

Invocation ............................................. Rev. Maurice Hill
Pastor, Johnson Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Selection ............................................. Mr. Willie Polk

Church History ...................................... Dr. Alvin Jackson

Music .................................................. Deacon Earl Donaldson

Procession to the Cemetery

Remembrances of West Africa
Remembrance of the Ancestors - Calling Their Names

Music .................................................. Deacon Earl Donaldson

Benediction .......................................... Rev. John T. McPhatter

FORMERLY ENSLAVED BURIALS
1. James Bostic (1835-1919)
2. Elizabeth Johnson Bostic (1857-1898)
3. John Burke (1864-1929)
4. Spencer Burrough (1860-1937)
5. Frank Groover (1858-1944)
6. Prince Groover (1791-1891)
7. Paul Hankerson (1860-1926)
8. Gabriel Heard (1857-1926)
9. Olliff Pearsall (1856-1908)
10. Isaac James Ward (1863-1926)

TEACHERS
1. Annie Mae Heard Brawley (1918-2008)
2. Lillie Barber Heard (1907-1998)
3. Thelma Jones Heard (1910-2001)
4. Arnetta Bostic Lofton
5. Mollie Heard Parrish (1923-2008)
6. Alice William Simmons (1942-1978)
7. Luella Burrough Ward (1906-1992)

VETERANS
4. Eddie Evans (1920-1978) WW II
8. Jimmie Lee Jackson (1927-1957) US Army

Thank You! TO THE WILLOW HILL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Mr. Earl Donaldson
Mr. Khalil Maycock
Mr. Regan Donaldson
Ms. Maria Olivas
Ms. Lakia Hillard
Mr. Anthony Simmons
Dr. Alvin Jackson
Mrs. Joyce Simmons
Mrs. Valerie McCray
Mrs. Bertha Pryor