

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO
RELOCATE THE WADSWORTH - CLAYTON
CEMETERY
LAMAR COUNTY, GEORGIA**

SUBMITTED TO:

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
408 Thomaston Street, Suite E
Barnesville, Georgia 30204**

SUBMITTED BY:

**City of Barnesville
109 Forsyth Street
Barnesville, Georgia 30204**

31 May 2017

INTRODUCTION

The City of Barnesville proposes to disinter and relocate graves from the Wadsworth - Clayton Cemetery in western Lamar County, Georgia. The Wadsworth - Clayton Cemetery is an abandoned cemetery that is threatened by proposed industrial development (Figure 1). The cemetery was delineated by archaeologists from Southern Research, Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc. (Southern Research) of Waverly Hall, Georgia in April 2017. The delineation determined that approximately 103 individuals may be buried in the cemetery.

Georgia Code **OCGA Title 36, Chapter 72** requires a permit from the local governing body before any disturbances including disinterment can begin. This permit application follows the guidelines and requirements of **OCGA 36- 72- 5** for a permit application to the Lamar County Board of Commissioners.

The Archibald Wadsworth family began to be buried in the cemetery as early as 1839. Archibald Wadsworth was buried there in 1856 and as many as a dozen family members may be present. In addition to the Wadsworth family graves, there may be African-American slaves and freedmen as well as a mass grave with thirty or so victims of a civil war era train wreck.

Wadsworth - Clayton Cemetery is located on top of a prominent hill west of the Old Milner Road in a cattle pasture. There are no monuments or marked graves across the hilltop and only a few fieldstone markers are present. Figures 2 and 5 show the conditions at the cemetery in April 2017.

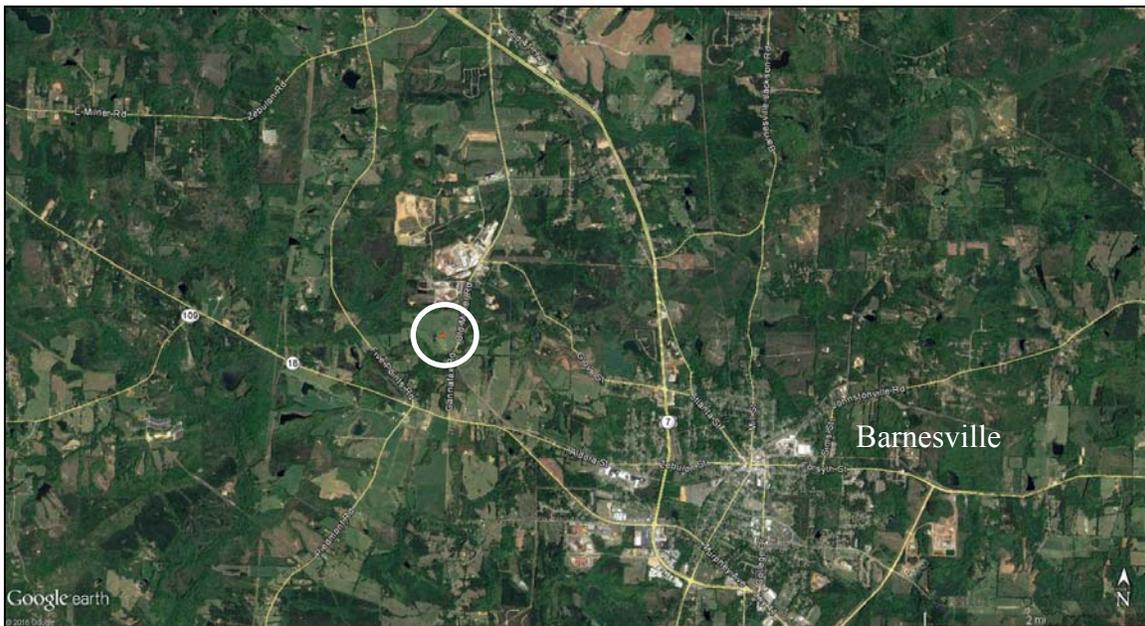


Figure 1. Location of the Wadsworth - Clayton Cemetery.



Figure 2. Google Earth Imagery from April 2017.



Figure 3. View of Wadsworth - Clayton Cemetery Looking West.



Figure 4. Example of a Grave Marked with a Quartzite Fieldstone at the Wadsworth – Clayton Cemetery.



Figure 5. Example of a Grave Marked with a Quartzite Ledger at the Wadsworth – Clayton Cemetery.

EVIDENCE OF OWNERSHIP

DB 181/175

LAMAR COUNTY, GA. SUPERIOR COURT
FILED & RECORDED IN CLERK'S OFFICE
JAN 10 1996 AT 4:10 P.M.
DEED BOOK 181 PAGES 175-176

After recording return to:
Norman Smith, Attorney
133 Forsyth Street
Barnesville, GA 30204

ROBERT F. ABBOTT, CLERK

GEORGIA, LAMAR COUNTY

WARRANTY DEED
BOOK 181 PAGE 175

This indenture made the 10th day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred ninety-six between 0 73

ZOLLIE S. GRAHAM, JAMES O. GRAHAM, DONALD F. GORDY, MARTHA JANE "JANE", SINGLETON, and DEBORAH STELL SMITH

of the Counties of Fulton, Lamar, Lamar, Pulaski, State of Georgia and Montgomery County, Alabama, respectively, as parties of the first part, hereinafter called the Grantors, and

CITY OF BARNESVILLE, a municipal corporation existing under the laws of Georgia

of the County of Lamar, State of Georgia, as party of the second part, hereinafter called the Grantee, (the words "Grantor" and "Grantee" to include their respective heirs, successors and assigns where the context requires or permits)

WITNESSETH that: Grantor for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars, in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents does grant, bargain, sell, alien, convey and confirm unto the said Grantee,

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the 533rd Militia District, G.M., Lamar County, Georgia, containing one hundred twenty-three (123) acres, more or less, and known as the T.J. Bailey, Sr. Place and bounded now or formerly as follows: North by lands of Charles Fred Brown and Eliza Jackson (now Willie Fred Brown and Rayonier, Inc.); East by the Central of Georgia Railway Company; South by the lands of Mrs. Addie Gladys Trice and R.O. Harrell; and on the West by lands of R.O. Harrell and lands of Mark Berry. This being the same land described in that deed dated May 2, 1958, from G.R. Knight to J.R. Smith and recorded in Deed Book 29 page 110, Clerk's Office, Superior Court, Lamar County, Georgia.

Also, all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the 533rd District, G.M., Lamar County, Georgia, and being on a public road leading from Milner, Georgia to a paved highway which leads from Barnesville to Zebulon, Georgia, the same being a small strip of land containing ten and thirty one hundredths (10.31) acres, more or less, and described as follows: Beginning at the public road above mentioned where said strip of land corners with lands formerly owned by William Wilkes and then running in a northeastern direction along said road a distance of three hundred twenty seven (327) feet to an iron pin; thence west one thousand four hundred forty two (1442) feet to an iron pin; thence south three hundred (300) feet to a corner with property formerly owned by William Wilkes, R.O. Harrell, and the above described strip of land; thence running east with the line of said William Wilkes to the starting point. This being the same land described in a deed dated August 9, 1954 from Mrs. Addie Gladys Trice

to J.R. Smith and recorded in Deed Book 35 page 260 in the Clerk's Office, Superior Court, Lamar County, Georgia.

Also, all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Lamar County, Georgia, and further described as follows: One acre of land known from 1937 to the present time as the Stroudville School property and bounded now or formerly as follows: On the east by the Central of Georgia Right-of-Way, south by land of J.R. Smith; and on the west and north by land of the place formerly known as the Stallings place. This is the same one acre of land as described in Deed Book 11 pages 563-564 in deed records of Lamar County, Georgia. This being the same land described in a deed dated November 10, 1955 from Lamar County Board of Education to J.R. Smith and recorded in Deed Book 30 page 399, Clerk's Office, Superior Court, Lamar County, Georgia.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract or parcel of land, with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, to the same being, belonging, or in anywise appertaining, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said Grantee, forever in FEE SIMPLE.

AND THE SAID Grantor will warrant and forever defend the right and title to the above described property unto the said Grantee against the claims of all persons whomsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor has signed and sealed this deed, the day and year above written.

Zellie S. Graham (SEAL)
Zellie S. Graham

James O. Graham (SEAL)
James O. Graham

Donald E. Gordy (SEAL)
Donald E. Gordy

Martha Jane "Jodie" Singleton (SEAL)
Martha Jane "Jodie" Singleton

Deborah Stell Smith (SEAL)
Deborah Stell Smith

Sworn to and subscribed before the undersigned this the 10th day of January, 1996.

Norman Smith
Notary Public
Notary Public



Lamar County, Georgia
Real Estate Tax Roll 1996
Paid \$ - 0 -
Date JAN 10 1996
Robert J. Allen
Clerk of Superior Court

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The City of Barnesville engaged Southern Research, Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc. in Waverly Hall, Georgia to conduct an Archaeological Survey of the Wadsworth - Clayton Cemetery. In April 2017 the Southern Research archaeologists used careful surface searching, probing, intensive metal detecting, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and shallow hand dug excavations to delineate graves in the cemetery. The archaeological survey determined that as many as 103 graves may be present in the cemetery. Figures 6 and 7 show the GPR Survey in progress and the map of its results.



Figure 6. The Ground Penetrating Radar Survey at the Wadsworth – Clayton Cemetery.

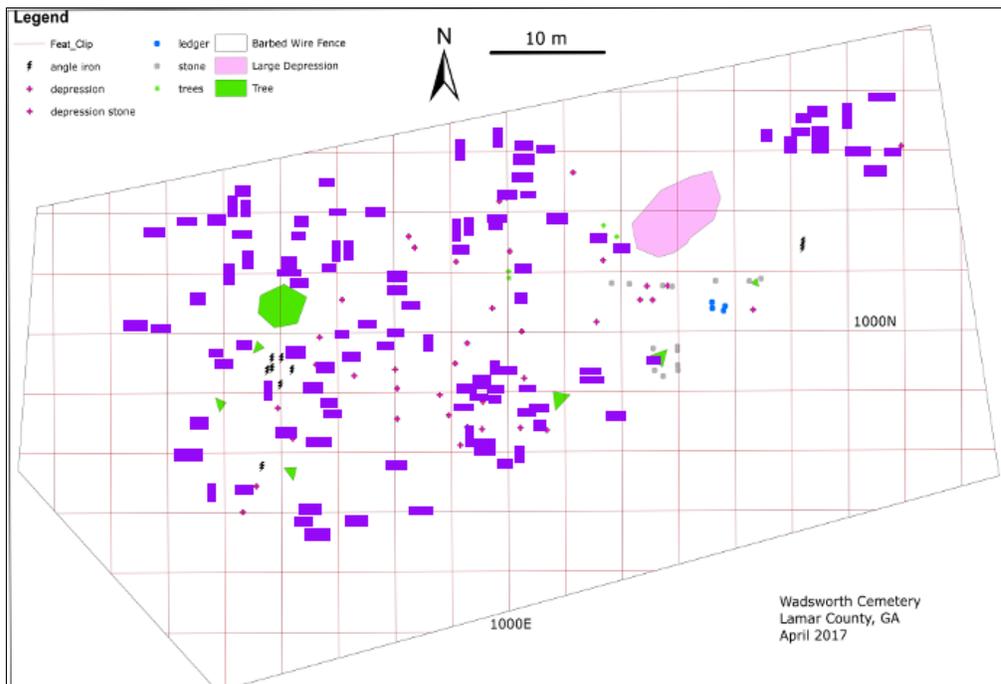


Figure 7. A Map Showing the Possible Graves (Purple Rectangles) and other Features Located by the Archaeological Survey.

Shallow hand dug excavations confirmed that the GPR Survey discovered graves at the cemetery. Figure 8 shows the faint stains of three graves just below the ground's surface in an area where the GPR indicated over a dozen possible graves.



Figure 8. A View of the Shallow Excavations looking Northeast in Grid Square 990-995N, 995-1000E. There are Three Graves Outlined that show up as Faint Stains just below the Ground's Surface.

The full Archaeological Survey Report by Southern Research is appended to this application (Appendix I).

PLAN FOR NOTIFYING DESCENDENTS

Southern Research, Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc. is working with the City of Barnesville to identify the Wadsworth family's descendants. The firm's Principal Historian and a professional genealogist are researching the Archibald and Clarissa Wadsworth family history to assist in identifying the family's descendants interred in the Wadsworth - Clayton Cemetery. This will allow the concerns and comments of any descendants and any other interested parties who may have ancestors buried in the Cemetery (ie. slave descendants and descendants of Civil War soldiers) to be considered. Avenues and historical sources that may be pursued in an effort to find living descendants of those buried in the Wadsworth Cemetery include:

- US Federal Census
 - Population, farm and slave schedules
- Lamar & Pike County Court records:
 - Tax Assessor's Office
 - Tax records
 - Inferior Court
 - Wills,
 - Probates of estates,
 - Death and marriage licenses,
 - Homestead exemption lists
 - Superior Court
 - Deeds
 - Liens
 - Civil suits
- Archived Newspapers
 - Macon Telegraph, Daily Constitutionalist* (Augusta), Barnesville
 - Gazette* and any other pertinent ones reporting on events in the Barnesville area
- Local Historical Societies
- Local Library Archives
 - County histories (especially for Pike and Lamar counties)
 - Family histories
- Ancestry.com
 - Census
 - Family records
 - Message boards
- RootsWeb.com database and "Ancestry community" database

- Genweb.com/
 - Search databases for Wadsworth descendents

- Civil War Military Records (Pertinent to the 1864 train wreck near the Wadsworth property)

- Public Contact/Outreach
 - Run notices in local newspapers in Lamar, Pike, Meriwether, Upson, and Spalding Counties
 - Local African American Community groups
 - Message Board Notices on Ancestry.com and RootsWeb.com
 - Notices on Genweb.com
 - Local Civil War organizations (ie. Sons of Civil War Veterans, etc)
 - Informant interviews of local knowledgeable persons
 - Post notices through local historical societies
 - Post notice through Georgia Historical Society

DISINTERMENT AND RELOCATION PLAN

It is not possible to avoid or protect the Wadsworth – Clayton Cemetery from the proposed industrial development. **OCGA 36 - 72 - 15** provides for the relocation of burials and burial objects to an offsite location in such cases. When the cemetery is relocated, all work will be supervised by Southern Research's Principal Archaeologist who is experienced in mortuary studies and is a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA). He will be assisted by a staff of seven professional archaeologists with extensive experience in mortuary archaeology. Based upon the survey, as many as 100 individuals may be disinterred and relocated. The total number will depend upon how many graves are discovered during the process. The effort is estimated to take from five to eight weeks.

The plan for disinterment and relocation will involve the following tasks and efforts:

- The disinterment of the burials and burial objects will be off limits to all but Southern Research personnel, representatives of the City of Barnesville and Wadsworth family descendants. No media representatives or onlookers will be present. Security during off hours will be arranged for by the City of Barnesville.

- The process begins by using a smooth bucket on a backhoe to strip the first one foot of top soil from the cemetery. This will not intrude into any graves but will allow the top of the grave shafts to be exposed. A Southern Research archaeologist with extensive heavy equipment experience will do this work.

- Once all the graves, known and newly discovered, are mapped, the backhoe will be used to carefully remove the grave shaft fill to a point just above each coffin. This point is what archaeologists refer to as the shelf or ledge and marks the point where the coffin will be encountered.

- The hand excavation of the contents of the grave will use small tools such as masonry pointing trowels, shovels, brushes and ¼ inch screens.

- The remains of each individual will be recorded on a Burial Form that will describe the skeletal elements and their condition with particular attention to details that may aid in the determination of sex and age at time of death. An example of this form is appended to this application (Appendix 2). The precise location of each grave will be recorded.

- The human remains, essence soil, coffin remains, and coffin hardware will be placed in boxes measuring 1 x 1 x 2 feet.

- Transportation of the re-boxed burials will be in enclosed vans travelling to the Greenwood Cemetery on Adams Street in Barnesville, Georgia.

- The remains will be reburied in the Greenwood Cemetery maintaining the same relative locations found on the original cemetery.

APPENDIX I
Archaeological Survey Report