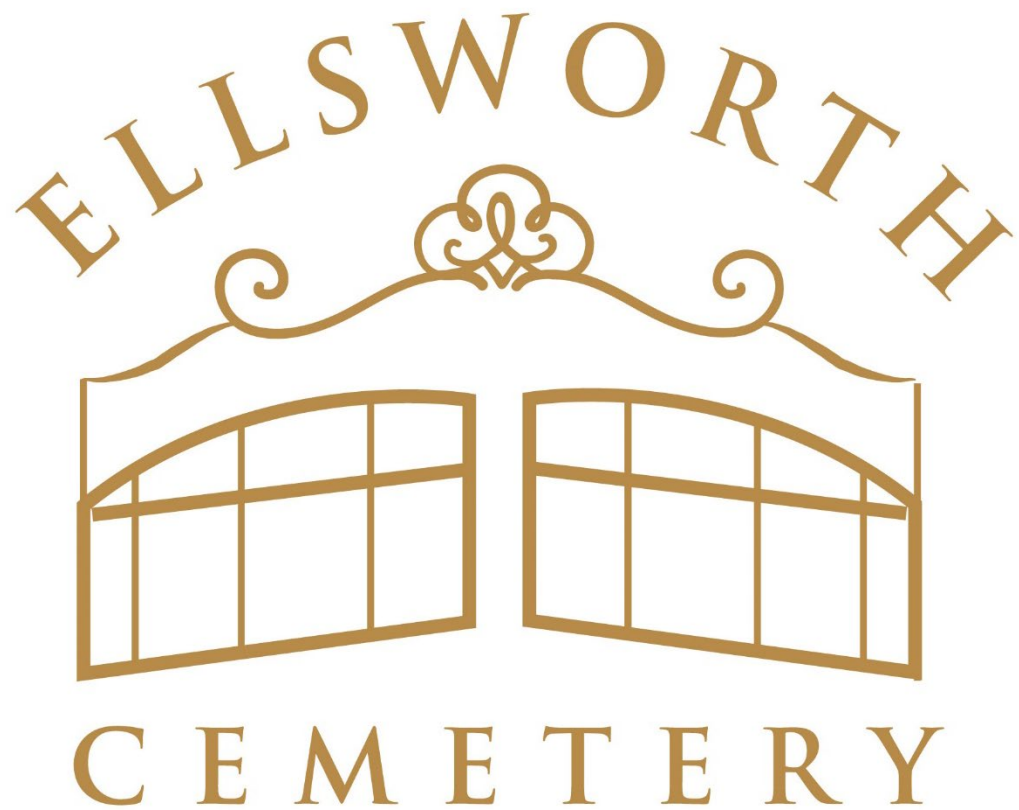


# Self-guided



# Walking Tour



# Ellsworth Cemetery Walking Tour

2023

## Cemetery etiquette:

- Please avoid walking over the fresh graves. It is more difficult to avoid walking or standing on the older graves, and therefore we won't be too concerned about exactly where those are.
- Please avoid touching the headstones. Do not lean against them or place items on them. We treat headstones as the current physical representation of the person buried here.
- Whenever we're in a cemetery, we should be respectful of those who might be visiting and grieving. Ellsworth is a small cemetery, and you may not see other visitors.

## Safety

- You will be walking on uneven ground, so be careful where you step.
- You will see numerous small white crosses. These mark gravesites that have been found via Ground Penetrating Radar, and may be hard to see, so watch out for those as well.

## Establishment

Ellsworth Cemetery was established by several prominent members of the African American community in and around Westminster. David Ireland, Nelson Edwards, William Massey, Samuel Bowens, Reuben Walker, William Adams and Lewis Dorsey incorporated the Ellsworth Cemetery Foundation in 1876.

We believe that six of the seven founders are buried at Ellsworth. The seventh founder, Private David Ireland, moved to DC later in life, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Ellsworth Cemetery is located here within the city limits of Westminster. Local lore has stated that at the time of its founding, African Americans were not permitted to be buried within the city limits of the town. We have not found any explicit laws or regulations stating this restriction, and at least one African American was buried in the St. John's Catholic Cemetery during the 1800s. Whether by law or by practice, the land that the incorporators were able to use was nearly three miles from their home church and outside the city. Cemeteries were regularly segregated across the county, with over 90% of cemeteries being racial restrictive as late as 1953. In June 2023, the City of Westminster annexed the cemetery following the owner's petition for that annexation.

Over the last 150 years, this cemetery has fallen in and out of repair. Initially, the founders and the early Cemetery Association maintained the grounds. Later, local churches took over the work. Mr. George Murphy worked for years, reestablishing the Cemetery Association, and doing much of the physical labor in maintaining the cemetery.

Currently, Ellsworth is owned and administered by the Community Foundation of Carroll County as a Field of Interest Fund. The Knights of Columbus from St. Bartholomew parish freely volunteer their time and tools to maintain the cemetery.

# Ellsworth Cemetery Walking Tour

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## Walking Tour:

We begin our tour at the front gate.

### Stop A: Nick Paroway - First African American to vote in Carroll County

Your first stop is on your left, about halfway to the wooden fence. The headstone you're looking for is about one foot high. Nicholas Paroway is one of the oldest people interred here at Ellsworth, being over 110 years old when he died in 1886.

He was born enslaved in Colonial America, likely in Baltimore. From his obituary, we know that he was enslaved by the Holmes family and then later by the Wampler family, working alongside dozens of other enslaved people in Ludwig Wampler's mills.

Based on Census records, we believe that he was manumitted (set free from slavery) sometime before 1830, when he was in his 50s. By 1850, he had moved to Westminster, where he lived with his second wife, Grace, and a young six-year-old boy named John Paroway. This boy may have been his son or his grandson.

Various family members of his family remained enslaved. Mr. Paroway worked to purchase them and set them free as well. Court records show that he did that for Ms. Honor Paroway, a young woman who was the right age to be his daughter. He paid \$2.50 to Abraham Shafer on November 3rd, 1854, and manumitted her two weeks later.



His obituary was published in the American Sentinel and republished as far away as London.

"When enfranchisement came, in deference to his age, he was the first one of his color to register as a voter in the district, and jealous and proud of the privilege he has voted at every election since. His last ballot was cast for Hayes and Wheeler. On this occasion, as has been the case for a number of years, he was hauled to the polls in a carriage furnished by his Republican friends. In the grand political demonstration of the Republicans in 1872, "old Nick" was one of the prominent features. Seated in an open vehicle, driven by one of his race, at least seventy-five years his junior, the old man looked out upon the throng, and pointed with pride to the placard on his hat that announced in conspicuous capitals "One Hundred and Six years old and not for Greeley."

His second wife, Grace, lived until September of 1880 and is buried near him.



# Ellsworth Cemetery Walking Tour

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## Stop B: Claressa Harden

Nearby, four stones towards the center of the cemetery, and facing the other direction, is Claressa Harden, who is one of the earliest burials in Ellsworth Cemetery.

Ms. Harden was likely born into enslavement in 1834 in Maryland. She was the daughter of William and Elizabeth Harden. It is not clear who her first enslaver was.



By 1850, her enslaver was a farmer, Mr. Francis Haines. When he died in September of 1858 at the age of 72, his will granted her manumission following the death of his widow. Mr. Haines had enslaved at least one other person, Mr. Samuel Squirrel, who may have been Claressa's uncle. Mr. Haines willed that they remain as his widow's servants and property until her death, at which time they would be manumitted. They are listed in Mr. Haines inventory, and each assigned a dollar value of \$300. Together, they comprised nearly a third of the value of what his widow received.

Ms. Harden continued to live with Mr. Francis Haines' widow and their son, Mr. John T. Haines, following the elder Mr. Haines' death. In the 1860 census, she was enumerated, along with Samuel & Sydney Squirrel, with the Haines family. Notably, she was counted as free rather than enslaved.

Mrs. Polly Haines died on 17 April 1863. Mr. Samuel Squirrel had already died, in late 1860, and is buried in Jerusalem Lutheran Cemetery, the same church cemetery as his enslavers.

By that time, Maryland had passed a law making it illegal to manumit people by will. Fortunately for Ms. Harden, the law was not retroactive, and she was manumitted in April of 1863.

We believe that she married William Massie, a Civil War Veteran in Carroll County in February 1866 and one of the cemetery's founders. Even though her headstone does not record her name as "Massie."

We do not know if she had any children. Her father's headstone is nearby. He had bought and freed both Claressa's mother, Elizabeth (who went by Betsy) and her brother, John Singleton. We do not know why he did not perform the same office for his daughter. Perhaps the Haines family refused to allow him to do so. Perhaps he couldn't afford to. We may never know.



# Ellsworth Cemetery Walking Tour

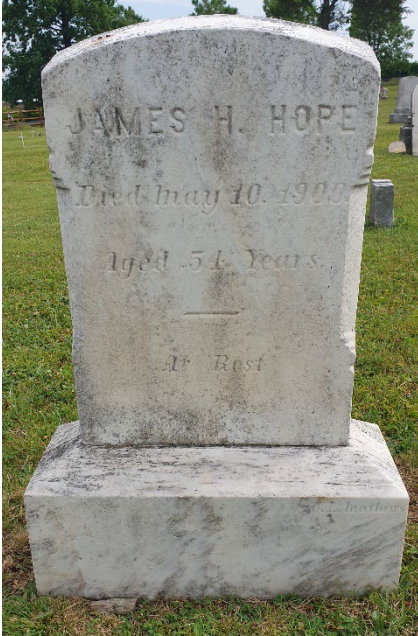
2023



## Stop C: James Hope - Actor, valet, entrepreneur

Behind you, you'll see the large upright headstone of Mr. James Hopes.

Mr. Hope was born in Richmond, Virginia in 1843. He lived with his grandmother, Mary Ann Brown, until she sent him "working out" as a young boy to the Richmond Theater. Because he was known as her grandson, he was called, "Jim Brown."



While working at the Richmond Theater, he met and worked for Ms. Mary Delvin. She later married Mr. Edwin Booth, the elder brother of the infamous assassin. Mr. Hope spent the years from 1863 to 1875 as the personal valet of Mr. Booth. In fact, he was the one who told him of his brother's killing of President Lincoln.

Mr. Hope had a near total recall of everything Shakespearean. He often recited lines from plays and sonnets. At the time, African American actors were kept in vaudeville or minstrel shows, and Mr. Hope was interested in neither.

Instead, Mr. Hope was an entrepreneur. In 1875, he and Mrs. Ella Hope moved to Westminster, Maryland. He opened a barber shop in the City Hotel, while she worked as a dressmaker. There, in his 3-chair, 3-spittoon shop, he would sing and recite Shakespeare to his many clients.

He died, scissors in hand, of a heart attack one evening. Reportedly, Ella offered to finish the cut for the farmer in the

chair and was politely refused.

No further record of Ella has been found. She may have settled outside of Carroll County. The couple had no children.

## Stop D: George Dorsey - Veteran -- born free

Head to your left and towards the back of the cemetery. Private George Dorsey's small, upright headstone is marked with an American flag. George Dorsey was born in Frederick County, Maryland, in March of 1835. Carroll County was established two years later, in 1837. Mr. Dorsey was part of the community of free African Americans in Maryland.

In 1854, when he was still a teenager, Mr. Dorsey was apprenticed to Nathan B. Stocksedale. The Orphan's Court records that he was "to learn farming until age 21 when he is to receive 2 suits worth \$25 and \$15." Mr. Stocksedale was a farmer in his late 40s, with a small family, living near New Windsor.



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The summer of 1863, when he was only 18, Mr. Dorsey went to Baltimore and enlisted in the US Army. He served as a Private in Company H of the 28th US Colored Infantry until the 30th of November of the same year. At that time, he was medically discharged with a pre-existing medical condition that caused him to be subject to fits and unfit for duty. While this condition sounds like epilepsy, this was a known condition so it's unlikely that's what Private Dorsey had.

He returned to the area near Westminster, where he worked as a hostler (e.g., he took care of horses). Following his military service, Mr. Dorsey married Ms. Mary Goodwin. They had at least five children. In 1870, Mr. Dorsey lived where he worked, at the Central Hotel in Westminster. His wife and two young children lived elsewhere in the city.



The 1880 census finds him with his wife and children. By 1900, he owned his home at 302 East Green Street. Mr. Dorsey died on October 31st, 1902.

## Stop E: Rachel Pye

Behind you and towards the center of the cemetery, and facing the back, a large, relatively ornate upright headstone belongs to Ms. Pye. Ms. Rachel Pye was born in this area in 1834. Her parents, Mr. Charles Pye and Mrs. Eliza Adams Pye, were possibly enslaved, although records have not been found. They were first enumerated as free persons, living in Westminster, Maryland, in 1840.

Ms. Pye's parents are buried in Strawbridge United Methodist church cemetery, having been relocated there when the expansion of Route 31 required the movement of the Toop cemetery. Since the Toop people were enslaved by the Shrivvers, it is possible that she and her parents were enslaved by them as well.

# Ellsworth Cemetery Walking Tour

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By 1850 at age 16, Ms. Pye was working out as a servant in the household of Mr. William Brown. Later, she moved to live with and work for Mr. Elijah Crout, a local lawyer. When he died suddenly, while giving a speech in court in 1875, she remained with his widow, moving to her sister's house. That is, they moved in with Mrs. Sarah Crout's sister, Alice Morthland.

When Rachel's daughter, Mary, was born in 1854, Mary lived with them, until she was a teenager. She moved to Baltimore for a few years, and then to New York. During the last year of Ms. Pye's life, in 1903, she lived with Mary, who took care of her.

Mary moved back to New York, and when she died, her body was returned here to Westminster, and she is buried next to her mother.



## Stop F: Strangers' Row

Behind you and to the right, near the corner of the cemetery is Strangers' Row. When people died who had no one to care for them, when they were strangers to the community, they were buried here, in Strangers' Row. We have no record of who they were. And yet, we remember them.







# Ellsworth Cemetery Walking Tour

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## Stop G: David Dorsey

In the middle of the last row of the cemetery, facing the front, is a white marble headstone, marked with an American flag. Private David Dorsey was born here in Maryland on 20 Aug 1893, the son of Edward Dorsey and Georgia Ann Barnes.

When he was 25 years old, Mr. Dorsey enlisted in the US Army. He likely went to Camp Meade (now Fort Meade) near Baltimore and was assigned to the 371st Regiment, one of the few regiments for African American soldiers. In August 1918, Private Dorsey shipped from New Jersey to France. Rather than fighting alongside their white countrymen, the African American soldiers were assigned to fight with French divisions. They were required to wear French uniforms and use French rifles and other equipment. The regiment sustained heavy losses through September and October, holding the line in several areas near Verdun. The regiment was awarded the French Croix de Guerre as a unit award.



In February of 1919, Private Dorsey came back from France to Camp Jackson, South Carolina, as part of a general redeployment of the regiment. There, he was honorably discharged, having been awarded the Order of St. Sava, a Serbian award, for military merit.

Back in Westminster, Mr. Dorsey lived with his parents. He worked as a cook at the Western Maryland College (since renamed as McDaniel College) for many years. At some point, he was married to a woman named Eliza Loop or Toop. They probably did not have any children.

Private Dorsey was admitted to the Veterans' Hospital at Perry Point, Maryland in late 1943. He died there on the 5th of March.



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## Stop H: Rev. John Baptist Snowden & Margaret Coone

Walking back to the front of the cemetery, stop at the large obelisk, which is the largest monument in Ellsworth. The Reverend John Baptist Snowden was born enslaved in 1801 in Anne Arundel County. We know a great deal about his life because Reverend Snowden wrote his autobiography. It was published in 1900 by his son, the Reverend Thomas Snowden.

The elder Snowden knew his grandmother, who was born in Africa. She would often tell him stories about her life there. He purchased his own freedom about 1830.



The Reverend Snowden has become a minister even before his manumission but had waited for freedom to marry. He took marriage and being father as serious commitments. Additionally, he was determined to marry a free woman, as he vowed not to increase the sin of slavery by making his children enslaved (as they would be if their mother was enslaved).

He married Margaret Coone, who is also buried here. She had been born enslaved, by an elderly Catholic, German woman named Mrs. Grand Adams. When her enslaver died in 1817, both Margaret (known as Peggy) and her mother, Elizabeth, were manumitted. She was eight (8) years old at the time. We don't know anything about Mrs. Snowden's father.

Mrs. Snowden never learned to read or write. In his autobiography, the Reverend Snowden described her as a woman of "much force of character and real worth." She had a very strong

memory and good natural ability, particularly with numbers. She often traveled to Baltimore, selling and buying goods for herself and her neighbors.

She spoke German as fluently as English, perhaps because Mrs. Adams was originally from Germany. She was also fluent in Pennsylvania Dutch. Their German neighbors delighted in speaking with her. Margaret and John were blessed with fourteen children, eight boys and six girls. Unfortunately, due to the state of health care, particularly for African Americans, four died very young, and two died as teenagers.

Margaret made clothes for her large family from scratch. And by that it is meant that she plowed the ground, sowed the seed, pulled the flax, threshed it, put it out, broke it, spun it, made the cloth and then sewed the clothes. She passed away on February 14th in 1870.

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# Ellsworth Cemetery Walking Tour

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Her husband outlived her, and moved in with his daughter and son-in-law, William and Elizabeth Lowery (who are buried nearby). His son, the Rev. Thomas Snowden, wrote an extensive appendix to the elder Snowden's autobiography. In it, we find the most touching of tributes.

"As a provider for our home, according to his surroundings, father had but few equals..... He seemed to act upon the theory that men should wear out and not rust out. To spend and be spent in honest labor and in doing good was the height of his ambition." And again, "It is safe to say that all who knew John B. Snowden would trust him in all things and to any extent, and from that fact all who knew him knew him to love him."

Rev. John Baptist Snowden died in 1884.

## Stop I: Lawrence Clements

An immigrant to the United States, Edith Clements' father (who we profiled last week) was Laurence Bradford Clements, and he is buried in Ellsworth Cemetery.

Mr. Clements was born on Saint Lucia, an island in the West Indies. In 1849, at the time of his birth, St. Lucia was under British control. He is likely descended from those enslaved people who supported the sugar industry on the island. They have been manumitted as part of the general abolition of slavery in 1836. Following a four year "apprenticeship," formally enslaved people were free.

His parents would have been free, and he would be born free. have not yet been found, nor has his passage to Maryland. It's unclear why he would choose to move to the United States.

The day after Christmas, in 1877, Mr. Clements married Ms. Clementine Snowden. In 1900, the Clements family was living in Baltimore, where Mr. Clements worked as a cook.

Mr. Clements died in 1902.

## Stop J: Laura Robinson

Continue to the front of the cemetery, and stop at a plot-sized stone, flat to the ground. Ms. Laura Virginia Robinson's headstone is called a "ledger."

Ms. Robinson was born on the first of May in 1855. By 1870, she was "working out" with a small family in Westminster, Maryland. She is enumerated as "Mulatto," however that term was rather loosely applied and should not be read to have any meaning, except perhaps that the enumerator thought she had a light complexion. She may have been enslaved prior to 1864, although manumission records have not been found. Her parents have yet to be found as well.

Throughout her life, she worked as a domestic, in several households in Westminster. In her later years, she lived with and worked for Judge Francis Neal Parke, to whom she must have paid for her board. Near the end of her life, she sought the care of Dr. Henry Fitzhugh.

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At the time of her death, on 31 Oct 1931, she had a small amount of money saved, along with personal items. Her will bequeaths \$10 to her friend and neighbor, Mrs. Mary Jones. Mrs. Jones' niece, Ms. Jessie Waller, was granted a picture "which I obtained from Ernest N. Warfield." There is an Ernest Warfield who lived in Westminster, served in the Army and was killed in action in the Philippine Islands. One might imagine that Ms. Waller had admired the picture and Ms. Robinson wished her to have her possessions.

The residual of her estate, she willed to Mrs. Mary Jane Wilson. Mrs. Wilson's maiden name was Johnson, so may have been a close friend rather than a relative.

Ms. Robinson had also asked to have a "suitable gravestone." Her executor did not skimp on the stone.



## Stop K: Mary E. E. Walker, educator

To your right, facing the front of the cemetery, a four-sided obelisk marks the graves of the Rev. Perry G. Walker, and his wife, Mrs. Mary E. E. Walker. Mrs. Walker is one of Rev Snowden's daughters. As a young woman, in 1850, Ms. Mary Snowden was working as a servant in the household of the Reverend Dabney Ball. When war came and the Methodist Episcopal Church divided, Rev. Ball went south to his native Virginia. He united with the Methodist Episcopal Church South and served as a chaplain on the staff of Jeb Stuart. Following the war, he returned to Maryland and lived in Baltimore.





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Ms. Snowden married the Reverend Perry G. Walker in 1853. They likely met through her father, as they were all working together in the Methodist church.

The Walkers moved through Carroll and Frederick counties and down to Alexandria, Virginia. Notably, they did not go into Virginia until after the end of the Civil War. In the 1880 Federal Census, she was enumerated as sick, suffering from rheumatism.

In 1900, they lived in Westminster. That year, Mrs. Walker was selected to take over the administration of St. Philip's College, a school for African Americans in San Antonio, Texas. She served there for two years before returning to Maryland.

Mrs. Walker lived in Westminster where she and her husband lived quietly until her death on September 17, 1903. Her husband survived her. Rev. Walker was remarried to Ms. Eliza Jane (Black) Squirrel, the widow of Mr. John N. Squirrel in December 1904. When he passed away in 1914, the Rev. Walker was buried next to his wife in Ellsworth Cemetery.

## Stop L: Private Samuel Bowens

Continuing towards the front, a small granite headstone is marked with an American flag.

Named for his father, Samuel Bowens was born on March 5, 1838, as a free man. It's not clear what took this farmer to Boston in February of 1864, but it was there that he enlisted in the US Army. Private Bowens joined the 5th Regiment of the Massachusetts Cavalry (Colored). Despite the name, the regiment was dismounted. Like other exclusively colored regiments of the US Army, all the officers were white men.



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Private Bowens would have participated in the defense of Washington and later guarding prisoners at Point Lookout in Maryland. He deployed with the 5th Massachusetts to Texas, to defend the border. They redeployed to Boston, where the regiment disbanded.

Mr. Bowens returned to Carroll County, where he worked in the local tannery. He participated in the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization for US Army Veterans. His obituary states that he was a member of the Burns post, but this is likely an error. While the GAR was not a segregated organization, many posts were. Such was the case here in Carroll County. Private Bowens most likely was a member of the Thaddeus Stevens post in New Windsor, which was a Black post.

He married Eliza Jane Sanders, and they had at least three children. Mr. Bowens died on April 19, 1905, and is buried in his family plot. His headstone is one of nine that were installed in the spring of 2022. They were provided by the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.



His daughter, Mary Morgan, and her husband, William, are also buried in Ellsworth.

## Stop M: Daniel Warfield

Our last stop is the obelisk to the left of the flagpole, marked with "Warfield" on the bottom. This obelisk belongs to the Warfield family.

As a young boy, Mr. Warfield was bonded out by his father, Oskar Warfield, to a local farmer. He was treated badly and decided to leave. Without his father's permission, he went to Pennsylvania. In his pension application, Mr. Warfield remembers being 9 or 10 years old. He joined the US Army as a drummer boy. His enlistment paperwork says he was 17 and only 4 foot 11 inches. He served under the name Daniel Pocker. It was not uncommon for African Americans to serve under an alias, often to hide from those people searching for them.

After the war, he settled in Westminster. He married Annie Jones, and they had three daughters who all died as young girls. He owned a barber shop that his son, Ernest, eventually took over. Adam, who is also buried here, died before he did. It is likely that they both died of influenza during the pandemic.

We believe that Annie Jones Warfield, Daniel's wife, is also buried here. She died in 1921, although her dates have not been inscribed on the monument.



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# Ellsworth Cemetery Walking Tour

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## Conclusion

Thanks for coming out to visit us today! We appreciate your support & interest in Ellsworth Cemetery.

## Fast Facts

- Establishment of Ellsworth Cemetery Corporation: December 1876
- Oldest burial: Jane Woodyard Thompson (1862)
- Purchase of land from Mr. Elias Yingling's estate: June 11, 1896
- Veterans: 17 Civil War, 6 World War I, 2 World War II
- Current Ownership: Community Foundation of Carroll County
- Status: Active, private, secular cemetery
- Physical Address: 801 Leidy Road, Westminster, MD 21157
- Mailing Address: Ellsworth Cemetery Fund, c/o CFCC, 255 Clifton Blvd, Westminster, MD, 21157
- Website: [www.ellsworthcemetery.org](http://www.ellsworthcemetery.org)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067421190864>
- Email: [admin@ellsworthcemetery.org](mailto:admin@ellsworthcemetery.org)



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