

# A Guide to the Pleasant Shade Cemetery (Hampton, Va.) records, compiled 2012-2018

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 54206  
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2024

## History

**Processed by:** Trenton Hizer

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Pleasant Shade Cemetery (Hampton, Va.) records, compiled 2012-2018

**Subtitle:** Pleasant Shade Cemetery (Hampton, Va.) records, compiled 2012-2018

**Collection:** 54206

**Author:** Trenton Hizer

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record by Trenton Hizer, 12 September 2024

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Descriptive Summary

### Accession Number

54206

### Language

English

### Creator

John Mitchell, Mary Kayaselcuk, and Selma Stewart

### Extent

1.4 cubic feet (4 boxes)

### Repository

The Library of Virginia

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

### Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

## Acquisition Information

Gift of Artistine Mears-Lang, Hampton, Virginia, and Mary Kayaselcuk and Selma Stewart, Newport News, Virginia.

## Preferred Citation

Pleasant Shade Cemetery (Hampton, Va.) records, comp. 2012-2018. Accession 54206. Cemetery records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

# Historical Information

Pleasant Shade Cemetery, comprising over 20 acres, is the oldest and largest public African American cemetery located on the lower Virginia Peninsula. It is a combination of three earlier burial grounds, Mount Zion (1888), Pleasant Shade (1908) and Holly Grove (1918), and contains an estimated 15,000 burials, of which only a portion have been identified. After its owners abandoned the cemetery, Darnell Lang (1954-2024) and Artistine Mears-Lang founded the East End Neighborhood Association to organize volunteer efforts to save and maintain the cemetery. The cemetery has been divided into 14 sections to make identification of burial sites easier. The cemetery is the resting place for many prominent African American leaders of Hampton and Newport News, Virginia, including James A. Fields (1844-1903), member of the Virginia House of Delegates; attorney and social justice pioneer Joseph Thomas Newsome (1869-1942); evangelist Lightfoot Soloman Michaux (1885-1968); and Jessie Menfield Rattley (1929-2001), the first woman and African American to serve on the Newport News City Council and as mayor of Newport News.

## Scope and Content

Cemetery records for Pleasant Shade Cemetery, the oldest African American public cemetery on the Virginia Peninsula. Information compiled 2012-2018 by John Mitchell, Mary Kayaselcuk, and Selma Stewart. Provides name and burial information for identified burials in the 14 sections of the cemetery listed by section and by alphabetical order. Includes information on veterans, notable persons, and persons born in the 1800s.

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged

- Series I: Sections
- Series II: Veterans
- Series III: 1800s
- Series IV: Notables
- Series V: Marker surveys
- Series VI: Alphabetical
- Series VII: Search
- Series VIII: General and miscellaneous

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Extent: 2 boxes.

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### **Section 1--Galilee--Burial by row and plot**

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### **Section 1-Galilee--Early births, 1800s, veterans**

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**Section 3-Ephesus--Map, veterans, burials-verify, 1800s, early briths, notables, blank pages**

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**Folder 2**

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**Extent**

Extent: 1 box.

### **Veterans**

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Extent: 1 box.

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Extent: 1 box.

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Extent: 1 box.

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Extent: 2 boxes.

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### **Search.**

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Extent: 1 box.

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**Extent**

Extent: 1 box.

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