

**Evening Star Cemetery**  
**East Point Community Cedartown, (Polk County), GA**  
**July 16, 2024**

Evening Star Cemetery is an extremely overgrown African American cemetery located across from 503 East Point Road, in the East Point Community, in Cedartown, (Polk County), GA. Forgotten, obscured, and hidden in plain sight for more than 30 years, this burial ground contains both marked and unmarked graves for many residents, including World War II Veterans, family, friends, and unknown loved ones with connections to Cedartown, (Polk County), GA.

Under the guidance of Arleigh Johnson, Grey Gray, & the Polk County Cemetery Preservation Committee, a group of concerned citizens, who are affiliated with the East Point community by birth, marriage, or association united together & established the East Point Cemetery Preservation Committee. The East Point Cemetery Preservation Committee defined their mission during a series of meetings conducted at the Polk Historical Society or the Cedartown Library, on the first Saturday of each month, between November 2023 to April 2024.

Records provided to the East Point Cemetery Preservation Committee by the Polk County Cemetery Preservation Committee indicate, “the Evening Star Cemetery Property was purchased from Thomas E. and Bessie Dean Crook, on the East Point-Antioch Public Road, for use as a Memorial Type Cemetery for the Exclusive Interment of the African American residents of Polk County and surrounding areas. According to those records, original intentions were to develop and expand this cemetery on an ongoing basis to instill pride and a sense of being thankful to be a part.

Pursuant to the original intentions for Evening Star Cemetery, East Point Cemetery Preservation Committee launched a community service project to eradicate the abandoned & neglected state of Evening Star Cemetery, which has plagued the East Point community for more than 30 years and restore, preserve, and maintain the conditions of the cemetery. Thus, restoring Evening Star Cemetery encompasses: 1) improving access to the burial grounds. 2) aiding in healing and the grief process. 3) returning dignity, love, & respect to all persons buried therein. 3) creating a sacred & vital space to visit, mourn, remember, and pay tribute to deceased ancestors and descendants. 4) preserving memories. 5) providing a serene space to honor, acknowledge, and celebrate those who sacrificed and served our beloved United States of America. 6) ensuring future generations have links to trace their heritage. 7) promoting a sense of belonging. 8) identifying the members who comprised the East Point village that molded and shaped reputable character and provided a foundation for many African Americans to be successful in life & soar beyond the roots of Cedartown, (Polk County), GA.

Unfortunately, there is little written history available concerning Evening Star Cemetery. However, the Polk County Cemetery Preservation website documents the fact that Evening Star Cemetery is the final resting place for an individual who was born as far back as September 1, 1886, and the burial site for an individual who passed away August 27, 1989. Moreover, the range of dates mentioned above accentuates the length of time Evening Star Cemetery remained one of the prominent African American cemeteries, in Polk County, GA.

Teamwork implemented by key stakeholders, East Point Cemetery Preservation Committee, Polk County Cemetery Preservation Committee, community volunteers, and Bethlehem Baptist Church (194 East Point Rd. Cedartown, GA 30125) made it possible to successfully complete three cemetery restoration/clean up events on June 1, 2024, June 7, 2024, & June 28, 2024. It is worth noting that the volunteers included four industrious youth, who helped care for this African American burial site and exceeded expectations. Without hesitation each of the youth volunteers eagerly embraced the challenge of this community service project. While out of school for the summer, each of these youth donated their time, exhibited positive attitudes, demonstrated strong work ethics, cultivated new skills, & diligently performed assigned tasks.

We appreciate your assistance thus far. As we continue our journey, we invite you to join us. Help us reach beyond the forest we see, revive the ground, & restore peace & serenity. Please donate your time, food, water, Gatorade, finances, tools & equipment, and any other pertinent resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

LaKeittshia Gibbs  
Historian  
East Point Cemetery Preservation Committee