

Descendants come to cemetery dedication

BY GUS PEARCY
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Descendants of the Sugar Creek African American community attended the Indiana Historical Bureau marker dedication at the “colored cemetery” on Aug. 10.

The cemetery is the only evidence that a black community existed from 1850 through 1935, although the community had dispersed years before. The marker also says that a Civil War veteran is buried there. The cemetery is on County Road 824 West, about a half-mile north of Indiana 47 on the way to Old Mill Run campground in rural Thorntown.

Reece Thompson of Lebanon made the restoration of the cemetery his Eagle Scout project in 2016. Thompson said the cemetery is much more than a plot of land.

“This cemetery may not look like much,” Thompson said. “It’s a small plot of land

with a few headstones, but it represents a culture of black Americans that searched for new opportunities.”

African Americans came to Thorntown because of the Quaker community. As the community grew, it built a church, a school and a Masonic Lodge. Thompson said he chose the project, in part because it interested him and he also wanted his Eagle Scout project to give back to the community.

Vicke Hudson-Swisher of the Crawfordsville Bethel AME Church said the stories of the Sugar Creek Community can be told.

“We are important,” Hudson-Swisher said. “We are not invisible. We are a part of the fabric of the United States. We weren’t exactly volunteer immigrants, ... but we made this our home and helped build it.”

For now, the project is complete. The maintenance of the cemetery is now in the hands of the Sugar Creek Township Trustee.



PHOTOS BY GUS PEARCY | THE LEBANON REPORTER

DEDICATED DESCENDANTS: Vicke Hudson-Swisher (front) of Crawfordsville spoke at the Aug. 10 dedication of the Sugar Creek Community “colored” cemetery. Her best friend is a descendant of one of the deceased buried here. Behind her is Donald Glenn of Sheridan whose has a ancestor, Tapp, buried here.



PROUD ANCESTRY: The four pictured never met before Aug. 10, but all have an ancestor buried at the Thorntown “colored cemetery.” Donald Glenn has an ancestor from his mother’s side buried there. Next to him is his daughter, Alice Glenn Artis. Further right are Walter Robinson and Ericka Frazier who are descendants of the Demockson buried in the cemetery on County Road 825 West.

BOONE BEAT

The following people with name, age, address, charge and arresting agency were booked into the Boone County Jail. Charges are preliminary. The Boone County Jail is located at 1000 N. Henry Street, Lebanon, TN 37038.

Greenwood, dealing in a narcotic drug, ZPD

4:15 p.m. – Dusty Butterfield, 46, Indianapolis, dealing in a narcotic, ZPD

ongoing issue, 1000 block N. Henry Street, Lebanon, LPD

12:42 p.m. – Neighbor has controlled burn, caller can’t go outside house, ZPD

erty line, making comments about her putting her house up for sale, wants to talk to an officer about it, 3600 block Evergreen Way, Zionsville, ZPD