

East Middletown Cemetery Association

Middletown, Pennsylvania

2019



On behalf of the East Middletown Cemetery Association (Association) I am responding to the complaint filed with your office by William Jefferies on August 26, 2019. I, Lewis Whittle, a Trustee of the Association have never been President of EMCA. Currently, the last President resigned and then unfortunately passed away on June 28, 2019, so at this time the Association is in the process of trying to search and identify a new President since this is an all-volunteer Association.

The East Middletown Cemetery Association is a non-profit 501 (3)(c) organization.

The Association believes there is no basis for this complaint because Mr. Jefferies has purchased no consumable goods (burial plot(s)) or services from the Association. In reviewing Mr. Jefferies complaint to further confirm he has no financial interest in the Association, in his complaint on page 2 he lists no products or services purchased and lists only "Cemetery Association."

The Association covers two cemeteries; (1) located on Route 230 adjacent to the Starlite Motel in Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, PA and (2) located off of Iron Mine Road, Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, PA. For the purpose of this response I will refer to them as Cemetery (1) and Cemetery (2) respectively. Cemetery (1), the old negro cemetery located off Route 230 was condemned in 1950 (2 years prior to my birth). This information was provided by a former caretaker of the grounds. There are no known records to my knowledge to cover who is buried where and when on that property. Mr. Jefferies provided Death Certificates covering the years 1914, 1919, 1930, 1932, 1943, 1947, and 1974. The burials predating 1950, as previously stated, there are no known records. The Death Certificate from 1974 is hard to read, however, the name Tonya Johnson can be made out and to the Association's knowledge there are no records to indicate she was buried in Cemetery (2). The Association recommends Mr. Jefferies contact surviving family members to determine where she was buried.

Cemetery (2) there are no records of the 7 Death Certificates provided by Mr. Jefferies. Since there are no headstones associated with the Death Certificates provided there is no way to identify where they are buried. The Association has a surveyor's blueprint of Cemetery (2) depicting the boundaries and the roads surrounding the cemetery along with a diagram of the layout of plots. Plots that have been purchased are listed in the Association's Deed Book. Nowhere in the Deed Book is there any record of Mr. Jefferies purchasing a plot from the Association.

The East Middletown Cemetery Association meets twice a year April and September. Mr. Jeffries is Welcome to attend on September 10th 2019 at 6:00 pm at Ebenezer AME Church.

Respectfully

Lewis Whittle Trustee