

### Historic Cemeteries

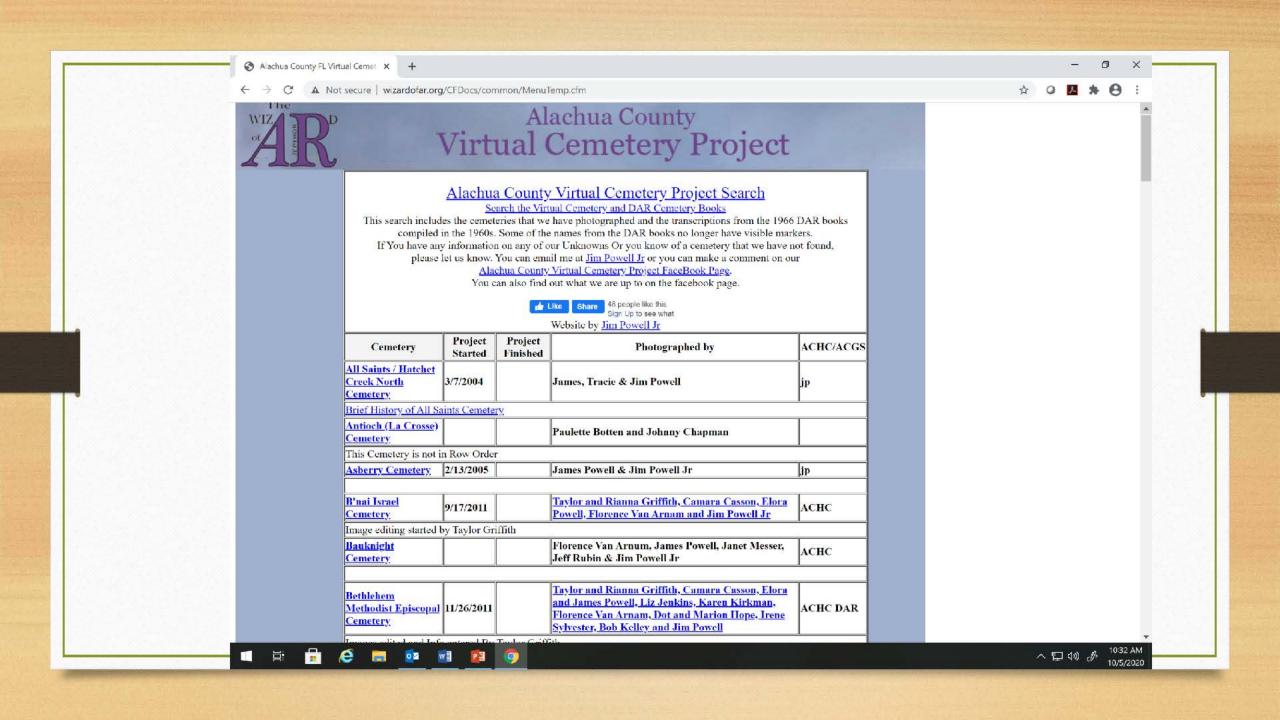
Alachua County Historical Commission October 27, 2020

### ACHC Motion on Cemetery Maintenance-Passed March 11, 2019

• Motion: ACHC recommends to BoCC to consider as 'reparation' funding to restore African American cemeteries under F.S. Chapter 497, Section 284. In connection with this work, ACHC will plan programs and historical avenues to achieve community awareness. Passed unanimously.

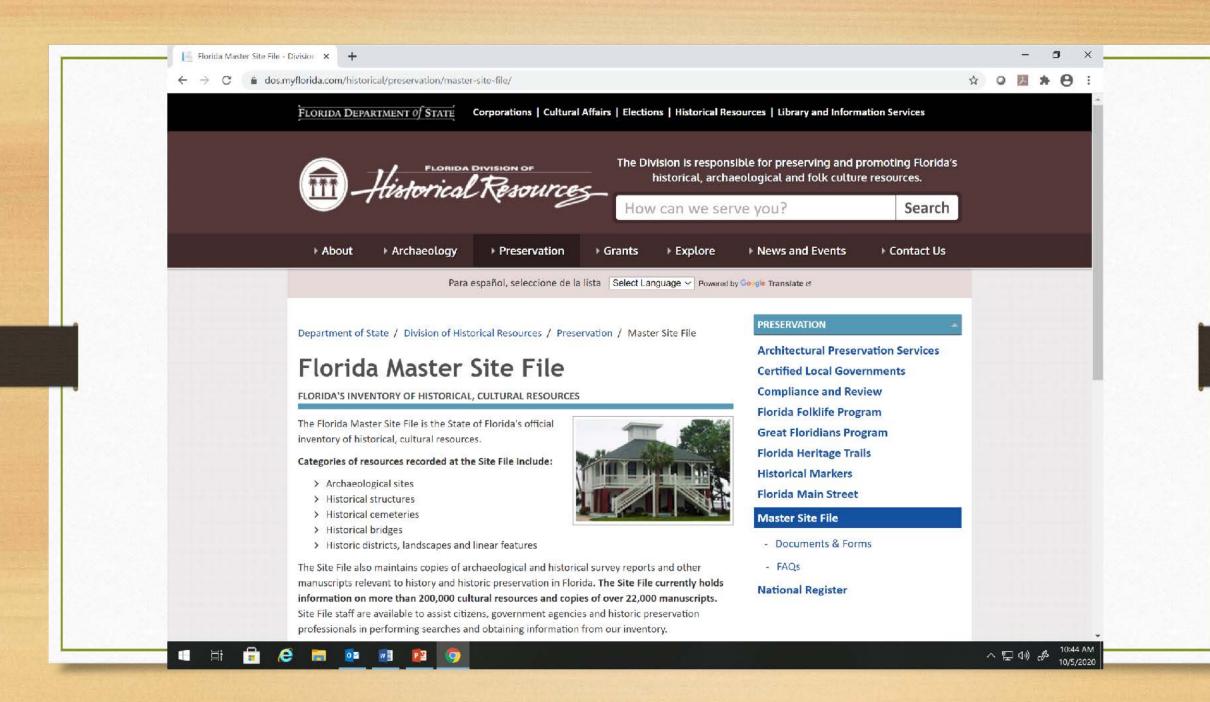
### Virtual Cemetery Project

- http://www.wizardofar.org
- Begun by Jim Powell in 2000, volunteers have documented all known sites where permission of owners was granted.
- A search feature allows access to records from the cemeteries that were photographed and the transcriptions from the 1966 DAR books compiled in the 1960s. The information is now freely searchable at Ancestry.com;
- FB group- <a href="http://www.facebook.com/wizardofar">http://www.facebook.com/wizardofar</a>



#### Florida Master Site File

• Florida Public Archeology Network (FPAN) staff Nigel Rudolph is working with ACHC Chair/volunteer Karen Kirkman to provide info to State to add previously undocumented cemetery sites to the secure database utilized for significant historic sites. This ensures in the future these sites will be known even if grave markers are missing, as can occur as a result of time alone or unfortunately vandalism.



# FPAN Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) Essential Partnership

- The Cemetery Resource Protection Training workshop focuses on cemetery care and protection. Participants explore cemeteries as historical resources while learning about laws that protect them, conserving headstone and markers, managing cemetery landscapes, and practicing hands-on headstone cleaning with a D-2 solution.
- FPAN schedules this free CRPT training at intervals across the State, and during the pandemic virtual training was offered.
- FB group- <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/418690514894961">https://www.facebook.com/groups/418690514894961</a>

### Outreach/ Possible Partnerships



Successful KACB and BMEC grant efforts at Archer African American site



Another African American cemetery in Micanopy, Haynes Cemetery, is KACB grant focus effort

# UF Historic Preservation State Grant/BMEC Conservation Management Plan Project



Work underway; plan anticipated Summer 2021 Digital documentation of site using laser scanning
Digital documentation of markers using photogrammetry
Digital documentation of site using drone imaging
Ground penetrating radar to identify unmarked burials
Assess existing condition of markers & develop conservation approach
Establish Historic Preservation approach
National Center for Preservation Technology and Training Workshop
Provide prioritized recommendations/ Consultation with Arborist
Guidelines for interpretation and future interventions
(Fence, Monument, Benches, Signage)

Site on Florida Trust for Historic Preservation "11 to Save"/2020

### Cost Information (from FPAN Staff)

- Mowing- City of Tampa budgets 120-140k to manage 5 cemeteries on City property. This does not include cleaning of stones, just ground maintenance.
- Stone Cleaning- Biological cleaning agent D2 and related tools, est. \$500 annually for rotating maintenance for large number of local cemeteries



F.S. 497.284 Abandoned cemeteries; immunity; actions.—

- (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a county or municipality which has within its jurisdiction an abandoned cemetery or a cemetery that has not been reasonably maintained for a period in excess of 6 months may, upon notice to the department, take such action as is necessary and appropriate to provide for maintenance and security of the cemetery. The solicitation of private funds and the expenditure of public funds for the purposes enumerated in this subsection are hereby authorized, provided that no action taken by a county or municipality under this subsection shall establish an ongoing obligation or duty to provide continuous security or maintenance for any cemetery.
- (2) No county or municipality nor any person under the supervision or direction of the county or municipality, providing good faith assistance in securing or maintaining a cemetery under subsection (1), may be subject to civil liabilities or penalties of any type for damages to property at the cemetery.
- (3) A county or municipality that has maintained or secured a cemetery pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1) may maintain an action at law against the owner of the cemetery to recover an amount equal to the value of such maintenance or security.

History.—s. 7, ch. 78-407; ss. 33, 40, ch. 80-238; ss. 2, 3, ch. 81-318; s. 1, ch. 88-300; s. 1, ch. 89-8; ss. 84, 122, ch. 93-399; s. 65, ch. 2004-301.

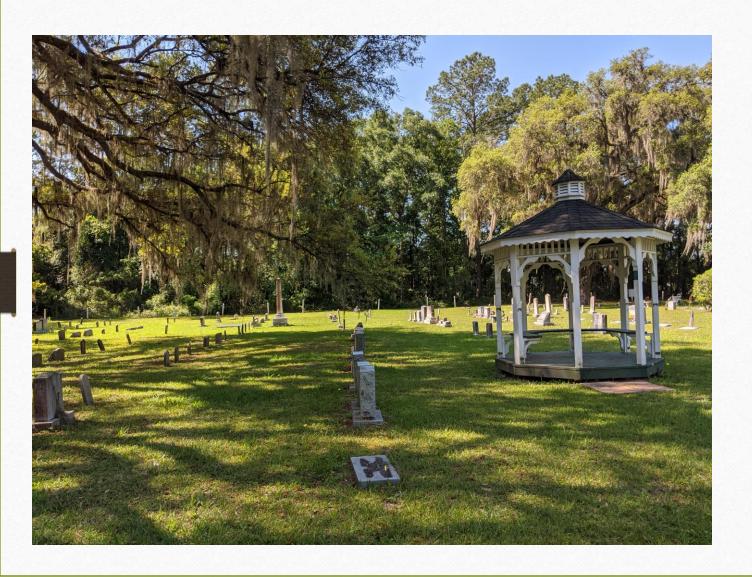


Photo is the well maintained community cemetery at Hague near N. US 441. The caretaker leader is an elder so transition planning is important even when community/faith organizations exist to care for the historic site.

#### ACHC Recommendation

- Accept the 2020 ACHC report on Historic Cemeteries
- Staff requests direction on whether to work with Public Works to present mowing/maintenance plan per F.S. 497.284; Or to continue work to secure grants with KACB or other specific cemetery community/faith groups
- Thanks to all the community partners who are working to preserve the unique sites located throughout Alachua County, some of whom we may not mentioned in report.