

Alexander Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery



Holiday wreath provided by Deborah Sloan, descendant of the Gudger/Penland Family

2025 marks our 10th anniversary of efforts to renew, re-energize, and raise awareness about the historic and cultural importance of the Alexander Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery. Thank you so much to all who have helped to support the care of this site, which means so much to our families. And thank you to all who have helped share stories, history, and photographs so that the mark our ancestors left in Western North Carolina will not be forgotten! **You are invited to be part of the continuum of care in the next 10 years, and beyond.**



Just a few Highlights over the Last 10 Years. Together, we have:

- Cultivated Friends of Alexander Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery.
- Continuously maintained grounds, with grass cutting at least monthly during the growing seasons.
- Shared collected information about the Alexander Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery via website hosted by Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Visit Appalachian.org/AlexanderChapel
- Attended various meetings pertaining to historic African American cemeteries.
- Installed signage, with name of site and many of the known families of the church/cemetery.
- Assembled printed material to use as needed, including postcards/bookmarks with a painting of the church donated by the late artist Connie Bostic.
- Created awareness and displayed history of the site, telling our story via Zoom & in-person presentations. Partnered with Leicester Library and Old Buncombe Genealogical Society.
- Hosted tours of the grounds for interested parties.
- Paved the driveway, improving access and removing the need to periodically replace gravel.
- Sought legal opinion on matters related to the site, as needed.
- Installed a flagpole to commemorate the service of veterans buried in the cemetery and descendants of the church family. We have started a list of veterans to recognize. Please share your veterans' names!

What would you like to see done, and how can you help? As descendants of families rooted in this community and at the Alexander Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery, let's organize to help guide the future of this place. You are invited to put forward ideas and help create a plan that can be used to support future projects. What could the building be used for: a community gathering space? A historic site? What do you envision here? We need all to participate and come together, and see what can be achieved in the next 10 years.

Please put your ideas in writing, and let us know what you can help work on!

Get in touch! Please email annette-coleman@att.net

Please share your email with us! Postage costs are rising, and we want to continue to share updates and communicate about the future of the site with the descendants' families. Using email will help save \$\$ and be more effective in doing so.

Gallery of Families - Our Stories Continue Over Generations. Please Share Yours!



Charles Barnard and family members (left) just some of the descendants of Henry Barnard (right) who was a well-known blacksmith in the community.



Charles McElrath (2nd from right), with his son Charles II, and grandchildren Noah and Farah.



Latta Frances McElrath & wife Christine Harris McElrath, grandparents of Charles



Grandmother Lorena Roberts (center) with LaTiece Roberts Eggleston's children.



Lorena and Sterling Roberts.

Lisa Roberts Allen (right), youngest daughter of Lorena and Sterling.



In Memoriam: LaTiece Roberts Eggleston – April 29, 1930

– December 5, 2025. It is with deepest sorrow that we share the passing of LaTiece, one of the long-term stewards of the church and cemetery. LaTiece Virgilene Roberts Eggleston was born to the late William Sterling Roberts and Lorena Estella Coone in Barnardsville, NC. The family moved to Leicester, NC where she grew up with five siblings. LaTiece attended a rural school there and later graduated from Stephens-Lee High School, Class of 1947. Upon graduation, she attended Southern Commercial College and later Haywood Technical School, receiving a degree in Industrial Management in 1973. LaTiece married Wilbur Eggleston of Elizabeth City, NC, and to this union five children were born and son, David, was adopted. In 1951 the family moved to Canton. As a young child, LaTiece attended Alexander Chapel Baptist Church, joining in 1943. Upon moving to Canton, she became a devoted member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and served as a deaconess, missionary, den mother for the Boy Scout troop, and Sunday school teacher. LaTiece was as an employee of Champion International with 23 years of service and the only African-American personnel secretary. She retired in 1992. Always creative, LaTiece enjoyed crocheting, painting, sewing, gardening, and competition on the Scrabble board. As a community activist she was a life member of the NAACP. LaTiece and Wilbur were married for 64 years prior to his passing in 2011.



Supporters in 2025, Thank You!

Rev. Pat Bacon

Atty. Joe McGuire

Gary & Lisa Allen

Sandra Roberson

Deborah & Henry Clark

Judy & Jimmy Rickman

Martha & Ronnie Reece

Charles McElrath

Rebecca Anderson

Winslow Lowery

Old Buncombe Genealogical Society

Ami Worthen

Diane McAfee

Ray Funeral Home & Cremation –
Jesse Ray

William H. Hutchison

Bonnie Turner

Earnestine Turner

Deborah & Craig Sloan

Broward Flag & Display Co. –
Bob Barcafer

Brenda Lowery Stoner

LaTiece Eggleston

Carol Eggleston

Robert Eggleston

Kimberly Coleman

David K. Hall, III

Lillian McAfee

For questions or more info, or to be involved in the future care of the church/cemetery site,
contact Annette Coleman at (828) 230-0629 or annette-coleman@att.net

Make donations/mail to: **Alexander Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Annette Coleman**
PO Box 6082 , Asheville, NC 28816