Community MLK Jr. Celebration
January 25, 2015
Slavery at the University of Virginia
Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
The President’s Commission on Slavery and the University

Charge

• Research UVA’s historical relationship with slavery
• Communicate contributions of the enslaved
• Educate students, faculty staff, alumni, visitors and community about the legacy of slavery
• Provide advice and recommendations on commemoration
AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY
AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY

Restoration, Preservation
African American Cemetery
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Buried here are 67 unknown men, women, and children—individuals for whom the University has no records. The location of these graves and evidence from archaeological investigations suggest that they represent a portion of the hundreds of enslaved and free African Americans who labored at the University in the years before 1865. The only acknowledgment of this burial site occurred in 1866 when it was noted that “the old slaves, the University servants were buried on the north side of the campus, just outside of the wall.”

It is not known when the African American Cemetery was established or ceased to be used. This grave site, adjacent to her Almost, lies within the oldest University Cemetery. The interments of unknown African Americans are located near the eastern edge of the campus, between the old campus and the new University. Although the University has no records on where University servants were buried, the following represents a partial list of the graves identified:

**Archaeological Discovery**
In advance of a proposed 2012 expansion of the University Cemetery, archaeologists identified 17 (twenty-three) human burials. The site was located near the University’s main entrance, with small stones paving representing burials. Most of the remains are likely to be those of enslaved African Americans who labored at the University. In total, 17 (twenty-three) human burials were identified. The remains were buried during the archaeological investigations.

**Historical Appearance**
The African American Cemetery is an area of historical and archaeological importance. The site is located near the eastern edge of the campus, between the old campus and the new University Cemetery. The interments of unknown African Americans are located near the eastern edge of the campus, between the old campus and the new University Cemetery. The site is located near the eastern edge of the campus, between the old campus and the new University Cemetery.
African American Cemetery
Candlelight Service
Commemoration
October 16, 2014