DMCC, Inc.

DESCENDANTS OF MACEDONIA CHURCH AND CEMETERY (DMCC)

COMBINED HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1 MACEDONIA CEMETERY ORIGINS (1832–1900)

- **1832:** George Waters writes to Cherokee Agent Gen. Coffin regarding his land claim along the Chattahoochee River.
- **1845:** Birth of April Waters during slavery.
- **1852:** Death of George Waters shortly after April Waters' birth.
- **1852–1855:** George Waters heirs contest his will
- **1853:** George Waters' will enters probate, documenting enslaved families connected to the future Macedonia community.
- **1845:** Court orders execution of the will. Most enslaved individuals designated for emancipation are transported to Liberia.
- **1855:** Sawney Waters, Lucy Waters, and their children—including April Waters—are bequeathed to George Waters' granddaughter and remain in Georgia.
- **1865:** Emancipation ends legal slavery and begins Recoostruction.
- **1865–1877:** African Americans pursue education, worship, land ownership, and civic participation.
- **Late 1800s:** Macedonia Church becomes a center of faith, family, and community life.

2 CHURCH & CEMETERY HISTORY (1900–1988)

- **Mid-1880s:** Macedonia Methodist Church (Warsaw AME) is established. The community creates Macedonia Cemetery.
- **Mid-1900s:** A second church building is constructed, continuing the legacy of faith and fellowship.
- **1910:** Death of April Waters.
- **1950s:** The 1st church was burned down by a domestic terrorist group known as the KKK.
- **1950s:** Herman Ousley built the 2nd church.
- **May 31, 1982:** Death of Herman Ousley, last known caretaker of the church and cemetery.
- **June 1988:** Last recorded burial at Macedonia Cemetery.

3 PRESERVATION ADVOCACY (1985–2016)

- **1985–1994:** Development begins around the cemetery.
- **1997:** Survey identifies 21 grave markers including April Waters.
- **July 7, 1998:** Fulton County obtains maintenance easement.
- **1999–2002:** Abandoned church structure demolished.
- **2006:** Cemetery appears on Fulton County Historic Communities Map.
- **2012:** Historic Resource Survey recommends National Register eligiblity.
- **2016:** GDOT and archaeological studies identify numerous marked and unmarked graves.

4 REDISCOVERY & DESCENDANT ENGAGEMENT (2017–2025)

- **2017:** Madyun Shahid connects with preservation researchers.
- **2017:** Archaeological survey identifies 114 cemetery features.
- Madyun Shahid meets with Johns Creek Historical Society members and then city councilman John Bradberry.
- **2018:** Protective fence installed.
- **2019:** April Waters headstone returned.
- **2020:** City of Johns Creek acquires the cemetery property.
- **2021:** Descendants gather at Macedonia Cemetery.
- **2022:** Strategic planning for preservation and interpretation begins.
- **2023:** Sabrina Aquell, descendent of Sam Jones, appears and joins descendant engagement efforts, bringing new family connections, stories, and support to the preservation, movement.
- **2025:** Donetta Ousley, granddaughter of Herman Ousley, rediscovers the cemetery's significance and joins preservation leadership. Descendant-led preservation movement gains momentum.

5 DMCC ERA & MODERN DISCOVERIES (2023–2026)

- **June 12, 2023:** DMCC officially formed.
- **2024:** State historical marker process initiated.
- **2024–2026:** LiDAR, genealogy, GRP, oral history, and academic partnerships expand research.
- **2025–2026:** Ground Penetrating Radar identifies 177 additional probable burials.
- **2026:** Georgia Gwinnett College partnership begins National Register research and archaeological documentation.

★ WHY THIS MATTERS ★

Macedonia Cemetery preserves the story of slavery, freedom, faith, family, and community.

The cemetery connects descendants to ancestors whose lives span the Civil War, Reconstruction, segregation, and the modern preservation movement.

The discovery of 177 additional probable burials demonstrates that Macedonia represents a much larger historic community than previously understood.

OUR HISTORY. OUR VOICES. OUR FUTURE. ★★★★★ PRESERVE. HONOR. INSPIRE.