

July 20, 1939
Beacon News

Old Deeds Show Street Is Burial Lot

Oak Street Extension Is Impossible, Surveyor Finds—Lot Was Deeded to Colored People

Right of way for a street, extending Oak St. from N. Walnut to N. Brett through the southern end of the Methodist Cemetery land, does not exist according to a discovery made by G. Radcliffe Hustis, surveyor.

Mr. Hustis, who is preparing the city's new tax map, said today he has found the strip of land involved is recorded as a cemetery for colored people and not as a street.

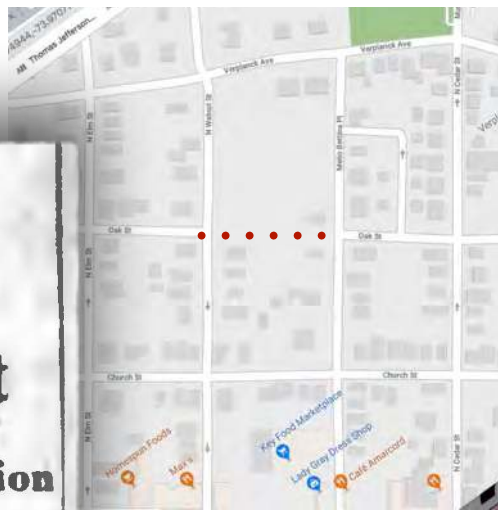
Transferred By DeWindt

City officials have discussed the street extension following request of Robert W. Doughty, representing the Sons of Veterans of the Civil War, that supposed bodies of soldiers be moved from the section and the street built.

Mr. Hustis has found records showing that in 1851 John Peter DeWindt, owner of the entire property in that section, "conveyed to Samuel Sampson, James F. Brown, Edward Bush, Christian R. Reynolds and Samuel Gomer, trustees selected by the colored inhabitants of Fishkill Landing, the strip of land measuring 50 by 130 feet. Said lot to be used as a union burying ground for the colored inhabitants of Fishkill Landing and near vicinity."

Mr. Sampson and Mr. Gomer at that time lived on Academy St. and Mr. Gomer was coachman for the Davies family.

According to Mr. Hustis, he can find no record of transfer of the property so its title still remains with the colored inhabitants of the city.



BEACON African American Burial Ground North Walnut Street, Beacon

April 4, 1916
Beacon Daily Herald

Commissioners Lamont and Sherman were appointed a committee to confer with a committee from the colored church concerning the proposed extension of Oak street through the colored burial ground.

April 21, 1954
Beacon News

Legal Problem in Street Extension

Many times suggestion has been made that the remains of five persons be removed to adjacent cemetery property so that Oak St. can be extended between North Walnut and North Bretts Sts. The interred persons were all Civil War veterans. Recently Robert W. Doughty has renewed the request to City Council in behalf of Sons of Union Veterans.

There has been considerable misunderstanding about the plot in question, so Radcliffe Hustis, surveyor, has searched his extensive maps and records of place ownership. His records show that in 1851 John Peter DeWindt conveyed to Samuel Sampson, James F. Brown, Edward Bush, Christian Reynolds and Samuel Gomer the piece of ground in question.

The lot was to be known as the Union Burying Grounds for colored inhabitants of Fishkill Landing, and near vicinity. The five men named lived in Academy and Division Sts., then principally a community of colored residents.

Inasmuch as the plot was deeded to the five men, their heirs would have to act. Being almost impossible to trace the heirs, a legal problem is involved.