History Quest!

CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Libraries & History

Lieutenant Carl A. Bailey Cemetery
27399 Holleyman Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33982 (Entrance on Scott Avenue)
Open Dawn to Dusk

Previously named "Cleveland Cemetery," this 5.5-acre cemetery is located between Highway 17 and Riverside Drive on Scott Avenue in Punta Gorda. Re-named Lieutenant Carl Bailey Cemetery, it commemorates a local resident who served in the United States Air Force. Lieutenant Bailey's parents, along with most of the Bailey family, are buried in this cemetery.

This cemetery has historically served Charlotte County's African-American community. It was originally managed by the Punta Gorda Colored Investment Company, which is a lapsed trust. Cemeteries which have been "abandoned" for one year revert to County ownership.

In 1974, the Lieutenant Carl Bailey Cemetery plat was approved by the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners. In 1986, the Board, working with a Trustee Board, took temporary responsibility for maintenance of the cemetery.

Please be courteous to those interred.
Drive under the arch and park to the left in the open grass lot.

1. How many flagpoles can you count in the cemetery? _____

2. How many above ground burial vaults (count each "double" as 2 individual burials) are located in the cemetery? _____

3. Buried in this cemetery are many military veterans, some marked and others not marked from the Civil War until the Vietnam War. There are 15 tombstones for World War I veterans, locate and record the names of five WWI veterans:

1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____
5) _____

4. One of the largest and most popular families in Punta Gorda was the Bailey Family. The Bailey brothers are known for their military service during World War II. There are six Bailey family members buried together in the cemetery. Locate the Bailey graves and write down the first names of the brothers whose tombstone records their military service.
(Hint, look for 4 tombstones:)

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____

5. In the very back of the cemetery (opposite from the entrance) is a tombstone with the symbol for the Mosaic Templars of America. The M.T.A. was a black fraternal order founded in 1883. The organization originally provided illness, death, and burial insurance during an era when few basic services were available to black people. Locate the tombstone and write down the person's name on the stone:
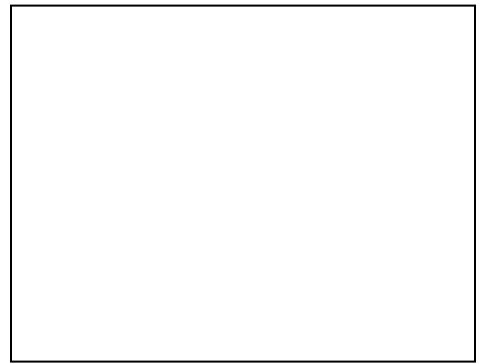
_____

6. Located in this cemetery is an Olympian who ran track for the U.S. Team during the 1973 Summer Olympics held in Munich, Germany. Punta Gorda's own **Thomas "Tommy" J. Fulton**. Among his numerous accomplishments, he was ranked in the Top 10 in the U.S. for the 880 and the mile run in 1973-1974. He was among the first African American males to break the four-minute mile, running a personal best time of 3.55 minutes in Munich, Germany in the 1973 Olympics.
Locate his grave and write down his birthdate: _____

7. The tallest (or highest) tombstone in the cemetery marks Deacon Joe Washinton's grave.
   What is his death date? _____
   Draw the symbol on his tombstone in the box:

8. Nearby Deacon Washington's grave is second tallest tombstone in the cemetery that of veteran Pvt (Private) Leonard P. Fulford's grave. Look at his death date, in which war did he die while serving his country?
   _____

** Now turn in your quest to the Charlotte County History Services to earn rewards! **