

Line Street Cemetery

(historic African American cemetery in Melbourne – 1901)
718 W H Jackson Street (formerly 710 Line Street), Melbourne, FL 32901
Cemetery Survey by Genealogical Society of South Brevard – 2020

The Line Street Cemetery is located in the part of Melbourne known as Crane Creek Heights, just south of Crane Creek. It was established in 1901. Although named the “Line Street” Cemetery, the street was renamed July 26, 2016 to W H Jackson Street. Line Street was renamed to honor William Henry Jackson, a longtime barber whose family lived there for over a century. Jackson lived at 808 Line St. from 1916 to 1953 when he died, aged 103. He worked as a barber on the corner of Lipscomb St. and Brothers Ave. until he went blind.

The street renaming dedication was held at the nearby Allen Chapel AME Church. The church is not directly associated with the cemetery, although it is very likely local church members helped to reclaim the cemetery and many of the first church members were interred there. The church was organized in 1885 in the dining room of Wright and Mary Brothers. The other founding members were Balaam and Salina Allen and Robert and Carrie Lipscomb. Its first sanctuary was built in 1885 at the northern end of Lipscomb St. near the cemetery. The cemetery was established by the Brothers, Ford and Stone families.



Renaming Line Street makes it difficult to map using the old address. The new address is **718 W.H. Jackson St.** It is situated along the former Line Street, .2 miles from the J S Stone and Grant Street Cemeteries. A weathered sign is posted at the fenced corner giving a brief history of the cemetery. This small cemetery was lost until 1980, when the local community uncovered it while clearing dense under-growth. They found grave markers of Alice Chambers, died 1905, and John Whitfield, died 1901. A local Boy Scout Troop led an effort to further clear weeds and brush, revealing a few other grave markers. Only about 9 interments have been identified in the cemetery, with many more unknown graves, including possibly another 10 unknown stones visible. The known family surnames buried here include Brothers, Chambers, Hardie, Johnson, Lipscomb, and Whitfield, all buried between 1901 and 1914. It likely went into disuse around 1915.

The Line Street Cemetery was an early African American pioneer cemetery. It was one of the first cemeteries in South Brevard, and the second African American cemetery in Melbourne. It is now fenced and usually locked. It no longer accepts burials. The City of Melbourne has taken over management of this historic site and provides routine maintenance.

Brevard County records show Line Street Cemetery as a small fenced area within a .57 acre municipal lot, with an address of 718 W H Jackson Street. The lot is parcel ID# 28-37-03-00-766, owned by the City of Melbourne; City Manager, 900 E. Strawbridge Ave., Melbourne, FL, 32901. A Quit-Claim Deed was executed 19 Nov 1985 (the Line Street Cemetery) by *Elizabeth Stone Gibbs and Thelma Stone Mathis, as heirs to Mrs. M.E. Stone, A. Ford, Grace Wallace, L. McKay and J. S. Stone, E. C. Chambers, G. B. Miller, as Trustees of the Cemetery for the colored people.* It transferred ownership of the cemetery (.80 acres) to the City of Melbourne (Brevard Co. Bk 2651/Pg 1718, Clerk File# 1985110693).

