

# Unionville

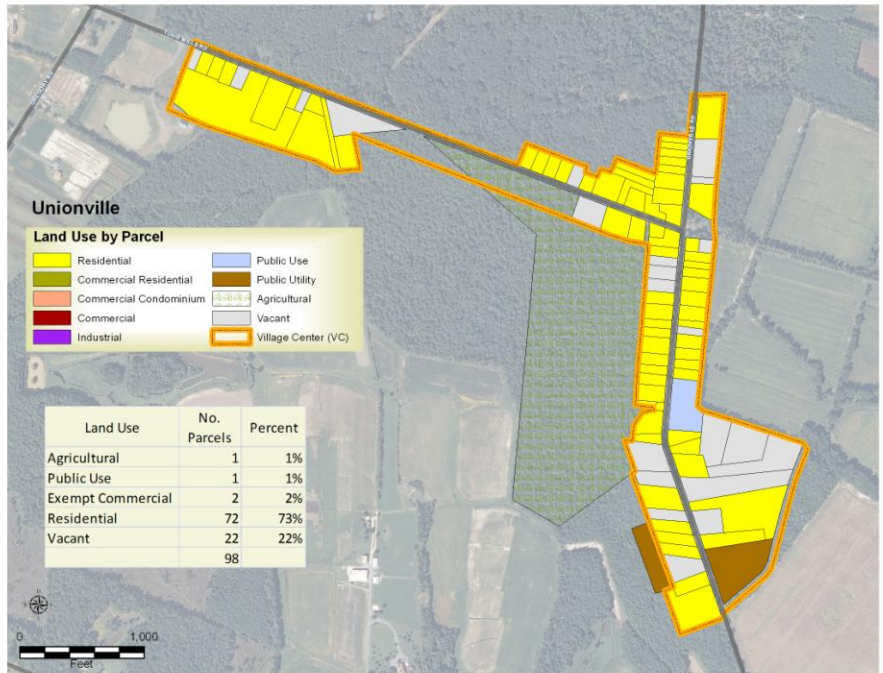
## Introduction

### History

The Enduring Heritage of 18 Black Soldiers: John Blackwell, Ennels Clayton, Isaac Copper, John Copper, Benjamin Demby, Charles Demby, William Doane, William Doran, Horace Gibson, Zachary Glasgow, Joseph Gooby, Joseph H. Johnson, Peter Johnson, Edward Jones, Enolds Moaney, Frederick Pipes, Henry Roberts and Matthew Roberts, United States Colored Troop Veterans who served in the Union Army's 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment Infantry of the Civil War from 1863-1866.

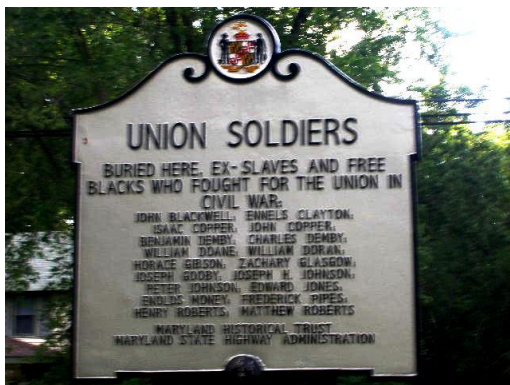
In 1867, these 18 former slaves and free men of color founded Unionville, a village in Talbot County, between Easton and St. Michaels. These men lived and worked on the Lombardy and Wye Plantations, part of which is now the Village of Unionville.

In 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln allowed blacks to fight in the war, many enlisted and some were even sold into the army. History records that more than 100



“colored” men left the Lombardy & nearby Wye Plantations to fight with the Union Army, hoping to win freedom for themselves and their families. The Lombardy Plantation was owned by a Quaker named Ezekiel Cowgill who also served in the Union Army. When the 18 “colored” veterans returned to the plantation he leased each of them a parcel of land for \$1.00 a month for 30 years. They build a church for their families and provided a school for their children. The congregation and first church structure was formed in 1871 and the St. Stephens AME Church that still stands with an active congregation today was built in 1892. All 18 of the Union Soldiers are buried in the cemetery behind the church with Colored Union Army headstones as their markers.

In 1998, the State of Maryland Department of Highways designated the village a historic site. The cemetery has been designated an



historic site by the State of Maryland Office of Tourism Development as part of its Civil War Trails tour through Maryland.

We have many treasures here in Unionville.

We have 3rd & 4th generations of families still striving, surviving and thriving here.

After slavery and the Civil War there were farmers, a store owner and a one-room schoolhouse with one teacher. Today there are entrepreneurs, educators and ministers of many faiths. In 1871 the ancestors of this village build a church for their families that still stands and is attended by their descendants. The village has veterans who have served and fought in every war since the Civil War. Our ancestors would be proud that the Roberts, Clayton, Sutton, Hayman, DeShields, Greene, Dill, Moaney and many more families like them are still carrying on the tradition of bringing families together to celebrate and honor the past.

We want everyone, especially people now moving to our village to know that they are joining a community already bursting with

pride in our past, holding on to the present and looking forward to what the future holds for all of us. This village of Unionville has produced a great legacy of teachers, ministers, carpenters, inventors, entrepreneurs and small businesses. We have veterans who have served this country in every war since the Civil War.

The people here are faith filled and peace loving. To those who visit with us in Unionville, we want you to know that we continue the legacy left by our ancestors. For the families who are moving here, we want you to know the rich history of the village that you have chosen as your new home. Our ancestors had vision and courage and we are very proud to be descendants of such brave men and women. It is now our legacy and we cannot forget the sacrifices they made to make us the proud and peaceful village that we are today.



**Vision Statement**

The people of Unionville would like to preserve the quality of life and character of our village and continue to encourage the high standard of living in a community that is peaceful and neighborly.

**Goals:**

- Preserve the history and land of the cemetery and church.
- To establish guidelines for future infill and redevelopment of our village.
- We would like to be zoned VC1.
- Preserve and protect the history, heritage and culture of the residents.
  - Establish a small museum to preserve the history
- Develop a Village Association
  - To know your neighbors
  - Create safety program for the good of our residents
  - Take ownership of your property with reasonable upkeep
- Determine the Lot Size and house size for the character of village
  - No mega mansions – no McMansions – no multi-family units
  - No large commercial operations (CAFO=commercial, animal, feed, operations)
  - No restrictions on design, color, roofing, etc.
  - Any new constructions must maintain minimum setbacks from village roads to conform to the existing setbacks of the current Talbot County Zoning Ordinance.

- All lots must maintain a 12” high weed control (County standards) – to maintain the character and visual appearance of our village.
- Small home based businesses shall be allowed.
- Safe Village – A Village Watch Program.