**About the Dixonville Cemetery**

The Dixonville Cemetery was the first city-owned cemetery for the burial of African-Americans in the mid-1800s.

In 2010, Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz initiated a task force to create a Dixonville Cemetery Memorial to raise the prominence of the early African- American cemetery, interpret its history and pay respect to those interred.

Based on Salisbury historian Betty Dan Spencer’s research, there are almost 500 documented burials at the Dixonville Cemetery. The oldest gravesite known is that of Mary Valentine, who died in 1851. This supports the supposition that African-Americans may have been interred on the property before the city of Salisbury purchased the acres for a cemetery on Sept. 30, 1874. Other prominent African-American Salisburians are buried there, including Bishop John Jamison Moore, who founded the AME Zion Church in western North Carolina, and the Rev. Harry Cowan, a minister who was born into slavery but went on to establish 49 churches and baptize 8,500 people.

Today, the Task Force has raised $237,846 for the Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Project, a three-phased initiative.