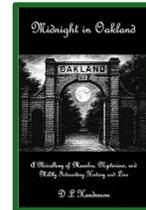
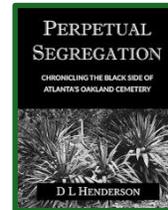
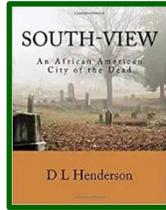
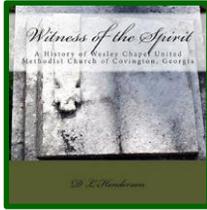




**Next Chapter Meeting via Teams: Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 1 p.m.**



## **“Shades of Purple in the Landscape of Wards Chapel Cemetery: A Narrative Analysis of Alice Walker’s Home Ground”**

### **Dr. D. L. Henderson**

Historian, Genealogist, Preservationist, Author

Multiple generations of Alice Walker’s family are laid to rest in her hometown of Eatonton, Georgia, at Wards Chapel Cemetery. This nineteenth-century cemetery embodies black burial traditions, local history, and genealogy. Walker’s autobiographical poem “Burial” evocatively explores the legacy of this ancestral landscape. Drawing from historical resources and Walker’s writings, this narrative analysis investigates the author’s family history on her home ground.

### **Biography**

**Dr. D. L. Henderson** is a historian, genealogist, preservationist, and author. Her research and writing focus on the intersection of history, memory, and culture in historically Black southern landscapes. She has received the Atlanta Urban Design Commission’s Jenny D. Thurston Memorial Award to an Outstanding Preservation Professional, and she has been recognized by the Atlanta City Council for her contribution to the preservation and interpretation of African American history and culture. She is a past president of the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society. Her published works include *Witness of the Spirit: A History of the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church of Covington, Georgia*, *South-View: An African American City of the Dead*, *Perpetual Segregation: A Chronicle of the Black Side of Atlanta’s Oakland Cemetery*, and *Midnight in Oakland: A Miscellany of Macabre, Mysterious, and Mildly Interesting History and Lore*.

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