

A PETITION

Gilleland Family Cemetery Restoration Project

As descendants of Thomas Gilleland (1764-1825) and Mary (Allen) Gilleland (1761-1823) and those with a strong historical and cultural interest in the project to save this historical cemetery, we, the undersigned, are requesting that free access be granted to representatives of the Gilleland Family Cemetery (located in Catawba County, North Carolina) from Mr. Gary Dellinger, property owner, without any encumbrance or potential of bodily harm from cows and/or electric fences currently surrounding the cemetery. The descendants of the Gilleland family and other interested parties wish to be allowed the opportunity to clean up, fence in, and maintain the burial site of these pioneer ancestors and restore the cemetery to the sacred ground that it once was. This cemetery, one of a very few remaining connections to the Gilleland family, has a significant link to their historic past. The loss of this cemetery would be a historically significant loss to Catawba County. The Gilleland family and the supporters of historical preservation have no desire to impose any restriction or impediment to the current property owner. They recognize his constitutional right to use his property as he chooses. However, his cattle are damaging and desecrating this cemetery. The North Carolina General Statutes have made provisions to restrict any land usage causing cemetery desecration or destruction. The undersigned parties seek relief from Mr. Larry Dellinger, the current property owner, asking for consideration and cooperation, seeking access and the opportunity to protect and restore the property described above.

If you agree with our goals, we urge you to sign this petition and return it to the address below.

The Internet web page for this threatened cemetery is <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nccatawb/Gilleland-cemetery.htm>

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Thomas
(Fifth Great Grandson of Thomas Gilleland)

Name	Address	Telephone

Please mail to: Jeffrey Thomas - 117 Logan Ave. Apt #1 - Jersey City, NJ 07306
Or send electronically to Jeff at <jeffthomas32@yahoo.com>