

## Bryant Memorial Dedication

(The following is an excerpt from the 1996 Edition of the “Mill Wheel” Newsletter)

The Joshua Bryant memorial will be dedicated Memorial Day weekend, Sunday, May 26th, at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield. The granite marker reads as follows:

“Joshua Bryant, Constable, Cranford, N.J., b. 1852, State of Virginia, d.1898, Cranford, New Jersey.”

First African-American public official and law enforcement officer in the Township of Cranford. Elected four times, he served ten years between 1881 and 1893, longer than any other 19<sup>th</sup> century constable. He was a respected political leader as well as a member of the original congregation of the First Baptist Church of Cranford.

The marker will be erected on lot 211 of the hillside “Playground” section of the cemetery in Westfield. Total cost of the monument is \$1,996.80. Donations may still be made to defray expenses. Checks can be sent to the “Cranford Historical Society/Bryant Memorial” Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford. All private donations will be grouped as “The Friends of Joshua Bryant” and that name will appear on the stone. The Bryant Memorial Committee consists of Bob Fridlington and Larry Fuhro from the Society, as well as Police Chief Harry Wilde and the Rev. Al Brown, pastor of the First Baptist Church.

