

OLD ATTALLA CEMETERY

This cemetery is located on a hill northwest of downtown Attalla, Etowah Co., Alabama. Travel northwest to 6th. Ave. NW and after crossing Highland Avenue, go up a steep hill to the second street to the left. Turn left and the cemetery is located in the woods at the end of the street.

There could have been 200-300 graves at one time, but today there are only two markers with three names on each of them. There are, however, several rocks and sunken graves scattered over the two acres or so of area.

When the LDS survey was made in 1963, there was a marker for Henry W. Pickens, born 04-01-1824 and died 01-09-1890, along with a Military marker that pointed out that he served in the 31st. Ala. Inf. Co. A C.S.A. Neither marker is there today. He was the first Postmaster of Attalla.

Another person of reputation who was buried in this cemetery was Commodore Ebenezer Farrand. He was born in 1803 in New York and died in 1873. He was appointed a mid-shipman in the US Navy 03-04-1861, but resigned 01-21-1863 and entered the Confederate States Navy. The Farrand Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy placed a monument to him in downtown Attalla in 1923. It was later removed as a traffic hazard, but in recent years was moved to the Civil War Centennial Memorial Garden. This is a small park-type area on the north side of Attalla where 3rd. Street. NW and 4th. Street NW intersect.

In 1962-63, the Etowah County Centennial Committee moved his body to Oak Hill Cemetery and a large marker has been installed on the northeast corner of the cemetery where he was re-buried.

The LDS survey lists only eight names of those buried here, and it did not list the names of three people whose names appear on one marker. That marker could have been removed but later returned. We feel sure some markers have been removed or destroyed. Below are the six names we copied when our survey was made on April 27, 1993.

These names were on one marker:

E.A. Landers - Born 03-07-1846 and died 12-21-1881
W.M.C. Phipps - Born 11-05-1818 and died 07-23-1882
L.J.A. Phipps - Born 09-08-1818 and died 05-01-1888

These names were on one marker:

R.A. McGill - Born 06-03-1880 and died 07-22-1880
Robert D. Duncan - Born 02-15-1808 and died 04-23-1885
Nancy K. Duncan - Born 03-07-1828 (death date not given)

The latter three names were on the LDS survey and they are spelled as shown. The writer however, copied the last two names as "Dungan".

During these years, William and Malinda's son John W. was born 29 March 1859, and Leonidus Mitchell (Lee, father of Joe F. Dunn, was born July 29th. 1861. John and Lee later married Page sisters, Nancy and Margaret. John and Nancy moved to Oklahoma.

In March of 1862, William D. Dunn enlisted in the Confederate Army. By October of that same year, he was home, deathly sick. He never recovered from his illness, and died there at home, leaving his 41 year old wife Malinda with six young sons to raise. She received what little pay was owed her husband from the Army.

That part of Alabama wasn't fought on literally, but as the Confederates lost more territory, supplies became scarce. Times were hard and after the war ended, corrupt politicians and fortune hunters made times even harder. The east-central part of Alabama, where our ancestors lived, was said to be one of the worst places. Malinda and her young sons "stuck it out" there until sometime in the 1870's when they decided to move to north-east Alabama, where conditions were supposed to be a little better. The James M. Patterson family, who lived in the same area as the Dunns, moved north-east also, maybe at the same time.

In 1880, Malinda lives with her sons in Jackson County, Alabama. Her family has now grown. Living in the house with them is her daughter-in-law Permelia "Aunt Mill", her grandson James, son of James T. and Permelia, and Melinda Patterson who married William Nathan Dunn around 1905. The whole family moved to Markton (Southside) Etowah County, Alabama in 1881 or 1882. Malinda received a widow's Civil War pension there during the 1880's and 1890's.

Meanwhile, her other sons all married girls from Southside. Malinda probably lived with her oldest son, James and his family, or her youngest son Lee and his family until her death, on Tuesday June 6, 1899 at the age of 78.

It is not known where the grave of William D. Dunn is at this time. He was probably buried somewhere in Tallapoosa County, where he died. Malinda E. Walton Dunn is buried in Pilgrims Rest Cemetery, Southside, Etowah County, Alabama, close to her youngest son Lee Dunn, who died three weeks before her. The graves of James T. "(Uncle Jim), Sarah Permelia (Aunt Mill), William Nathan (Uncle Nath, and Melinda (Aunt Linn) are also in this cemetery.

Children of William D. Dunn and Malinda E. Walton

James T. born 26 Jan. 1850 died 16 July 1931, married 1 March 1878 Sarah Permilia Patterson.

William Nathan born 2 Aug. 1851 died 1 April 1930 married 1 Apr. 1905 Malinda Patterson.

David Franklin born 29 Nov. 1853 married 2 Aug. 1877 Sarah Elizabeth Farrer.

Columbus M. born 17 Aug 1856 married Victoria Cunningham 1 Jan 1882

John W. born 29 March 1859 married 27 Dec. 1883 Nancy Page

Leonidus Mitchell born 29 July 1861 died 12 April 1899 married 14 Jan. 1885 Margaret Ann Bunion Page.

Contributed by:

Gloria Dunn Johnson, 2597 Watson Dr. Southside, AL 35907 Phone - 256-442-5520

James H. Fowler - An employee of Southern Iron Company. He died in Attalla on 09-24-1892 and it is felt that he is buried here.

Eliza Means Burke - It is also felt that she is buried here.

At one time the following graves had markers on them in this cemetery:

Henry W. Pickens - Born 04-01-1824 and died 01-09-1890. 2nd. LT. Co. A 31st. Ala Inf. CSA.

Malissa Brown - Died 10-05-1888, aged 75 years

Fannie Bolton - Born 03-03-1875 and died ?? (stone broken)

Pinkney Harrison - Born in Spartanburg, South Carolina 06-18-1820 and died Attalla, AL.

BURNS CEMETERY (Calhoun County, Alabama)

This cemetery is located on Anniston Army Depot property.

James Gannaway - born 06-10-1828 died 04-17-1902

John Maddox - born 01-16-1785 died 02-16-1857 Aged 72 years and 1 month

Benjamin Franklin Maddox - born 02-22-1825 died 03-28-1856 Aged 31 years 1 month and 6 days Son of John and Rebecca Maddox.

Rosanna Marilu Woodruff - born 10-22-1836 died 04-29-1874 Daughter of William and Marilu Woodruff - Wife of J. B. Gannaway.

INTERPRETING TOMBSTONE DESIGNS

Headstones were simple, upright slabs of stones, but they were enriched with carvings and epitaphs. One of the reasons Puritans gravestones were decorated with graphic images such as skulls, wings and hourglasses was that so many were unable to read the epitaphs. By learning the picture codes, you can figure out the meaning of these old monuments. Puritan stones were designed to honor the dead and teach the living moral lessons.

Valuable genealogical clues can be found on tombstones, too. Many stones of immigrants carry the names of the town of their origins. For this reason, genealogists should make every effort to locate the burial places of their immigrant ancestors. Sometimes this is the only place you will learn the exact "old country" origins of your

ancestors. Early churchyard stones hold a fascination for most people because there are imbued with human sentiment and emotion. Colonial headstones move and inspire us because they tell a story or inspire us with some beautiful or humorous tribute. The tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, VA, would be just another public monument were it not for the superb inscription which reads; "Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known but to God."

If you discover tombstone markings you are unable to translate, make a rubbing of the stone or reproduce it as exactly as possible and take it to a local monument works or sales outlet. Most of these businesses have the illustrated book by the American Monument Assn. Inc., Memorial Symbolism, Epitaphs and Design Types. Most local libraries have a copy. It has illustrations of designs, and explanations and meanings of various flowers, trees and other symbols, such as lambs (a favorite found on children's stones), plus symbols used by religious, fraternal, military and labor organizations.

COMMON SYMBOLS ON TOMBSTONES

BOOK OR BIBLE - Book of Life/Bible

URN - Death

ANGELS - God's Messengers

HEART - Mourning and earthly sorrow

ARCHWAYS, PILLARS, & GATES - Passageway into the next life

DOVE - Holy Spirit

HANDSHAKE - God's welcome to Heaven or Handshake of Matrimony (usually found on wife's tombstone)

PALM LEAVES AND LILIES - Resurrection

FLOWER BUD - Beginning of new life

LAMB - Purity, innocence (usually found on child's tombstone)

STAR - Reward of Resurrection (Hex signs similar, but are meant to ward off evil spirits.

FINGERS POINTING UP - Soul gone to Heaven

FINGERS POINTING DOWN - Soul gone to Hell

HANDING CHOPPING - Life cut short, sudden death

HAND REACHING DOWN - God reaching down for a soul

FOLDED HANDS - Prayer, Scripture

BROKEN TREE STUMP - Life cut short

TREE STUMP - Woodman of World Member

The above and the cemeteries were taken from a book by W.A. Lewis "LITTLE KNOWN Burial Sites and Cemeteries ETOWAH COUNTY ALABAMA Whites, Blacks and Indians Includes A Few From Nearby Counties (Blunt, Cherokee, DeKalb, Marshall and St. Clair)

There are still some of his books and if you would like one you can get one from him at 2525 Skyway Street, Gadsden, Alabama, 35904. This book has records or comments on over 180 cemeteries. There are about 4,800 names mentioned, along with occasional comments on relatives and some who are researching a family.

