

AK
Ft. Smith
1.1

Nolon Springs Cemetery

By Janice Bufford Eddleman

On the southwest corner of Newlon Road and Newlon Lane, hidden in the woods, briars and tall weeds, there is what was once a fairly large cemetery. The sign on the corner names the cemetery as Nolon Springs, but there is dispute as the spelling of the name and for whom it was named.

Before January 1851, when Sebastian County was created, the location of the cemetery was in Crawford County. Crawford County Tax Records show that in 1843 the land was owned by Harriet Craig Nowland (the widow of Capt. Edward William Benjamin Nowland). It is believed that land in the area may also have been owned by a Charles Newlon at one time.

According to legend Jack C. Mussett's young son died and was buried near the Mussett home as was customary in those days. Mrs. Mussett spent so much time at his grave that Mr. Mussett became concerned for her health and decided to establish a community cemetery and move the boy's grave there, out of his wife's sight. Jack C. Mussett, William M. Cravens and R.T. Kerr bought the land from Wharton Carnall in 1887. The deed reads as follows:

Know all men by these presents that I, Wharton Carnall, for in consideration of the sum of seventy five dollars to me in hand paid by Wm. M. Cravens, R.T. Kerr and Jack C. Mussett and others of School District No. 22 of Upper Township in Sebastian County in the State of Arkansas do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey upon the said Jack C. Mussett Trustee for the inhabitants of said School District 22 and unto his successors and assigns forever the following lands lying in the County of Sebastian and State of Arkansas to wit: two acres of land off the north east corner of the NE/4 of the NE/4 of Section 34 of Township 9 of Range 32

described as follows, beginning at the NE corner of said forty acre tract and running south one hundred and forty yards along the east line of said tract thence west seventy yards, thence north one hundred and forty yards to the north line of said forty acre tract thence west seventy yards to beginning containing two acres more or less to be used and held as a burying ground for the people of said School District according to its present boundaries and no other. To have and to hold the same to the said J.C. Mussett, Trustee, and his successors in trust for the uses and purposes and no other purpose with all the appurtenances hereunto belonging. And I hereby covenant with said J.C. Mussett Trustee as aforesaid and his successors that I will forever warrant and defend the title to said land to the said J.C. Mussett Trustee and his successors against the lawful claims of all persons whatever. Witness my hand and seal on this the 1st day of January 1887. Signed: Wharton Carnall.

The cemetery has, for many years, been overgrown, undergoing an occasional cleaning by a Scout troop or a R.O.T.C. or other civic minded group. It has also been the victim of vandals. From time to time, various persons or groups, including the Southside High School R.O.T.C., Elaine Fant Metheny, Virginia Fant Bruce, Sam Allen and the late Chris Elmore Allen, have attempted to inventory the cemetery. The following is a compilation of the known lists, but probably does not represent nearly all the stones in the cemetery.

Pvt. Arthur Roberson, December 1893 - January 1920

Annie L. Wood, Died July 1, 1927

A.G. Taylor, November 22, 1929

Serrena Adams, November 18, 1893 - March 14, 1937

Son, O. Curtis Adams, August 1, 1922 - December 24, 1940

Talestena, dau. of Fay & Manda Sweeden, April 23, 1912 - May 19, 1912

Albert T. Lee Roberson, 11 February 1910 - 7 November 1937

Richard Caswell Pendleton, 23 Sept. 1880 - 29 July 1897

Ella, wife of Will Martin, 26 April 1877 - 17 Oct. 1906

Eliza, son of M.R. & S.E. Weatherly, 29 March 1892 - 4 October 1895

Colhain(?), Baby, 1922, Age 8

Lula Duncan, died 8 May 1907, age 3 years

Henry Wade, died 23 January 1906, age 13



Nolon Springs Cemetery sign.



F.M. Wadley vs George S. Birnie} Attachment. 14 March 1861. Account filed for sum of \$28.75. Summons issued returnable on 3 April 1861. Summons returned duly served by J.M. Wheeler, deputy constable for Davie and on said 3 April 1861, the parties appeared and the defendant filed his account as set-off(?) for the sum of \$39.25 as per bill of items herein filed and the said parties being ready for trial and by consent of the parties this case is left to C.B. Dunkard and A.J. Singleton as arbitrators, who after retiring and sitting as arbitrators in said case do return their verdict in the words and figures to wit: We, the arbitrators do agree that G.S. Birnie pay J.M. Wadley nine dollars. Said Wadley pay the costs of Justice and Constable fees. April 13, 1861. Signed: C.B. Dunkard; A.J. Singleton. It is therefore considered by the Justice that plaintiff recover of defendant the sum of nine dollars and defendant recovers of plaintiff Justice and Constable costs here in expended. Justice Cost, \$1.00 (pd.); Const. Cost, \$1.25 (pd by Plff.); Judgment \$9.00 (pd. plff. by def.); Witnesses: Wm Allen, 1 day, .50; Wm Bleue(?), .50.

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E. Moore vs Wm. H. Whitefield. 14 March 1861. Plaintiff filed before me a note against the defendant W. H. Whitefield and a summons issued thereupon directed to the constable of Upper Township returnable on the 3rd day of April 1861. On this the return day of the summons which is duly served, having waited three hours for the defendant, he came not but made default, this action is founded upon a note as follows: "One day after date I promise to pay E. Moore, the sum of Twenty Dollars for value received." Signed: W.H. Whitefield. It is therefore by me considered that the plaintiff have and recover of the defen-

dant the sum of twenty dollars for his debt and five dollars and sixty cents for his damages and all of his costs by him in this case expended. Judgment, \$20.00; Damages, \$5.60; Justices Costs, \$1.50; Constable, \$.80. On this the 12th day of April 1861 comes the said William H. Whitefield the said defendant and prayed a stay of execution for the term of six months and offered Thomas Quinn as his security who entered into recognizance as is required, whereupon said stay is granted. Rec'vd. the full amount of this judgment from M. Wheeler, constable, Sept. 14, 1861. Signed: E. J.(?) Moore.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

FOOTNOTES

¹HISTORY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS (Goodspeed: Nashville, Tennessee; 21889), p. 1145.

²R. H. Mohler; FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, SOUVENIR OF THE QUEEN CITY OF THE SOUTHWEST (NP: Fort Smith, 1898), np.

³Ibid.⁴Ibid.

⁵HISTORY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS.

Op cit.

⁶Ibid.⁷Ibid.

⁸W. J. Weaver, "Early Days in Fort Smith," FORT SMITH ELEVATOR, Dec. 25, 1896.

⁹Mohler, op. cit.¹⁰Weaver, op. cit.

¹¹THE GOODSPEED HISTORIES OF SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS (Woodward & Stinson Printing Co.: Columbia, Tennessee; 1977), p. 698.

¹²Ibid. ³ Ibid. p. 709.¹⁴Ibid, p. 725

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Houston J., son of T.J. & N.J. Benjamin, d. 15 Sept. 1904
 John T. Belcher, 1865 - 1941
 Spencer Allen
 Dove Franklin, 22 October 1808 - 17 August 1900
 Tealie Franklin, November 4, 1902 - 19 December 1903
 Seabon King, Died 30 March 1901, age 71 years
 Martha L. Pegues, 30 May 1896 - 25 April 1914, Age 17
 Charley Robinson, Sr., Died 7 July 1910, age 75 years
 Edward Lee Parker, 1924 - 1925
 Susie Bonner, 2 February 1909, age 22 years
 Son, Royster, Died 6 Aug. 1911, age 18 mos.
 R. C. Caldwell, 13 August 1872 - 13 May 1911
 Levena King, Died 4 February 1910, Age 82 years
 Granville Wilks, August (Everything else is illegible)
 Albert Parks, died 19 April 1911, age 34 years
 Martha Smith, 7 November 1906, Age 65 years
 Samuel Harris, 21 September 1885 - 11 January 1895
 John Smith, Died 21 July 1899, Age 69 years
 Broken stone with only dates 6 October 1866 - 30 June 1899
 Annie Wilson, 12 January 184? - 30 March 1916
 Cornia Burnett, 14 May 1908 - 8 August 1923
 J.W.B. Anderson, 2 April 1866 - 9 February 1926
 Orvil Edgar Frank, Jr., Belcher, 8 November 1937 - 18 August 1938
 Callie, Daughter of L.K. & J.L. Johnson, 29 May 1878 - 28 January 1909
 Martha, wife of Henry Martin, 1 Jan. 1854 - 1 Jan. 1907
 Ella, Wife of Will Martin, April 26, 1877 - Oct. 17, 1906
 Abby Taylor, Died February 27, 1933
 J.W. (small foot marker)
 Minnie C. Blake, 29 November 1879 - 16 February 1915
 Augustus, son of Alfred & Ann Wilson, February 18, 1883 - November 4, 1902
 Josie McBride, aged 5 years
 Son, Harris, died March 17, 1912
 Emma Harris
 C.W.
 Baby, Burrow
 Willee Wilson, June 21, 1885 - September 4, 1915
 Virgil Robenson, Died September 15, 1912, Age 6 years
 Dicy Jones, 9 March 1873 - 16 February 1922, Member of Queen of Sheba Court 159 - Canlanthe
 Lennah Settle, 23 January 1897 - 23 June 1898

Carrie Miller, 12 September 1895 - 4 September 1899
 Lucy A. White
 A.C. White, 25 September 1862 - 11 January 1916
 Bettie Perteet(?), At Rest, (foot marker: B.P.)
 Daisy Cravens, d. 4 March 1931 (Stone is buried.)
 Herman Cravens, Ark. Private
 Leroy Lockett (Stone buried)
 Josie Mae Jones, 1920 - 1924
 Louthier Nelson, 1 May 1893 - 19 August 1895
 Claud Allen, 16 July 1880 - 20 May 1894
 John R. Allen, 12 July 1850 - 27 November 1900
 M.M. Cockrum (?), 30 January 1868 - 11 March 1898, Her acts were noble, Her deeds just, Truth was her motto and God was her trust.

Book Notes

By Janice Bufford Eddleman

LASTING MEMORIES: A Guide to Writing Your Family History, by Dana Jordan Alexander and Amy Shea. 140 pages. Soft cover, spiral bound. Price \$16.95 plus \$2.25 shipping. Available from Generations Publications, 1937 Dembrigh Lance, Charlotte, NC 28262.

This book is a workbook for writing a family history. The first five chapters are devoted to writing your own personal history, but are a good guide for writing the history of individuals in your family tree. Chapter Five is devoted to the immigration of family members to the United States and Chapter Six consists of worksheets asking those interviewed to tell of their reaction to such technological changes as the invention of the automobile. The next chapters are dedicated to questions to answer about the family in decades from 1910 to 1980 and the final chapters ask the person being interviewed to tell such things as what they think the most important event in their life was and what they would like people to remember about them. As a former history teacher, I could think of a lot of ways to use some of the worksheets in a classroom. In my opinion, if you are working with children in either history or genealogy, a copy of this book would be "chucked full" of ideas for your use. It would also be very helpful in helping a family historian to "flesh out" a genealogy and save it from the bare bones of names, dates, events and places.

In Loving Memory

BARBARA J. KERN MINOR

Barbara J. Kern Minor, 67, of Harwich, Mass., formerly of Fort Smith and a contributing writer for *The Journal*, died March 24, 1996 in Harwich. A graduate of Boston University with a degree in journalism, she wrote for a number of newspapers and other publications, wrote music and plays. While living in Fort Smith from 1980 to 1994, she worked in community theater productions, appeared in the motion pictures, "Biloxi Blues" and "Frank & Jesse" and was a volunteer for the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Old Fort Museum. She is survived by her husband, Captain R. C. Minor; a son, Robert C. Minor of New Bedford, Mass.; a brother, Norval C. Kern Jr., of Henry, IL; three grandchildren and two nieces.

ELMO CARUTHERS, JR.

Elmo Caruthers, Jr., 90, of Englewood, NJ, formerly of Fort Smith, died December 29, 1995 in Englewood. A life member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, he descends from the Caruthers and Miller families, both pioneer Fort Smith families, and the Henry Peoples Bell family of Greenwood, Ark. He attended schools in Fort Smith and graduated from Cornell University with a degree in mechanical engineering, where he was a star athlete and a contender for the 1928 United States Olympic team as a high hurdler. He served in the Navy during World War II and at the end of the war was assigned to help decommission the fleet on the West Coast. He served with the rank of captain in the U. S. Naval Reserve, was a member of the Belle Pointe Masonic Lodge in Fort Smith for more than 50 years, the Fort Smith Trolley Museum, the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Old Fort Museum.

A memorial service was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Englewood. On June 15, 1996 a memorial service and burial were held at Forest Park Cemetery in Fort Smith. He is survived by his sister, Frances Caruthers Cassebaum of Englewood, N.J.; a cousin, Barbara Shapard of Englewood; three nieces, Frances C. Galloway of Scarsdale, N.Y., Anne Melyn Cassebaum of Elon College, N. C. and Mary Elizabeth Meyers M.D. of Russellville, Ky. and seven grandnieces and grandnephews.

MONSIGNOR GALVIN

Monsignor William E. Galvin, 83, of Fort Smith died June 1, 1996 in a Fort Smith hospital. He was pastor at Immaculate Conception Church for almost 30 years. He was a chaplain in the Army during World War II, administrator of Catholic High School in Little Rock for 20 years, Dean of Western Deanery, counselor to the Bishop of Little Rock, chairman of the clergy personnel board and a member of the Priest Senate. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Texarkana, Ark. under the direction of Edwards Funeral Home.

He is survived by a sister, Mildred Larson of Waco, TX; a sister-in-law, Charlie Galvin of Bay St. Louis, Miss.; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception School Endowment Fund.

MILDRED STEIN

Mildred Stein of Fort Smith died Monday, May 6, 1996 in her home. An accomplished musician and writer she wrote music and poetry. She wrote "Come One, Come All," a poem officially acknowledged and published by the Fort Smith Sequicentennial Commission. It is also published on page 25, Volume 10, Number 1 of *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society* together with a biography of Miss Stein. She was a native of Fort Smith and her parents owned the Stein Wholesale Dry Goods Company. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mildred Stein Scholarship Fund, c/o Merchants National Bank, Account No. 2106505655, 723 Garrison Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72902.

MACK STANLEY

Mack Stanley, 89, of Spiro, Oklahoma, died March 30, 1996 at a Fort Smith hospital. He was a writer, an insurance and real estate agent, a motel builder and operator and a Methodist. He was the writer of 12 published books and "Home Town Tales," published in the Times Record, Spiro Graphic and several other newspapers. Burial was at New Hope Cemetery in Spiro. He is survived by his wife, Bess and a half-sister, Hazel Elliston of Long Beach, California. A beautiful letter of tribute to Mack, written by Jack Moseley, editor of the Times Record, was published on Wednesday, April 3, 1996 in the Times Record.

