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Mode-McEntire Cemetery

by
Scott B. Wesson¹

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Introduction – by Sharon H. Noyes

Upon receipt of the message from Miles Philbeck on 9 Jan, 2012, I immediately responded by stating that if Scott Wesson needed any help on this project to please have him contact me. I was in touch with Judith Parker-Proctor (Broad River Genealogical Society, Cleveland Co., NC) on Facebook and knew she would be the perfect person to contact first for help in Cleveland Co., NC. Miles obviously passed this along to Scott as on the afternoon of Tuesday, 15 Jan, I received his call.

Upon answering the phone, right away I knew what it was about as soon as Scott identified himself. We talked for over an hour until my voice gave out! Scott solicited my help and I am responding. I posted a message first on Facebook on the Mode Surname Group page and placed postings on the page for Judith Parker-Proctor and John Mode (our first Y-DNA tester in the Mode Surname Project of FTDNA) and others in our extended family. The following is the link (copy/paste on webpage) for interested parties about the Mode page on Facebook, created by Joe Mode.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mode-Surname-Group/199207196803482>

Judith Parker-Proctor replied to my post...“this is indeed exciting news. I’ll be happy to help spread the word about this monumental find for the Mode family. If you’ll message me with the info I’ll share the information wherever I can that will get the most attention. I’m actually very curious about the location of the graveyard myself.”

On Saturday, 19 Jan, Judy and I spent over an hour on the phone together. I had sent her a message privately with some details and told her there was just too much to put in a simple message. When I started reading the list of names known to be buried there, she almost started crying as she was so overwhelmed with lost family who have now been found. I gave her Scott’s well-defined directions and she knew exactly where it was located and said she must have driven by it a thousand times. I could almost hear her trembling with excitement, just as I had been upon reading about the find earlier.

Later, Judy sent me a map photo of Cleveland County that was made in 1886 showing the land and owners. She had one framed and now I have ordered the map to frame and hang next to me as I work on all this family. At the following link, scroll down the page near the bottom in ‘Miscellaneous’ for *Tax Map* of Cleveland County, NC, 1886 Size 25 X 22-1/2 (Must have, lists property owners & shows where they lived). Below it is a smaller one, also being sure to print out the order form.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncbrgs/publications.htm>

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Overview & Burials – by Scott B. Wesson

The Beginning of Temporarily-Named Mode-McEntire Cemetery ~ no prior known name

On the brisk, sunny morning of December 12, 2012, Robert Davis and I met at the Mode-McEntire Cemetery on Elliott Farm Road just south of Polkville. Our intent was to prepare for the scouts' clean-up of the cemetery by flagging the graves we could find, thus giving a basic outline to the cemetery and providing locations of individual graves, so that while work is taking place these graves can be protected from any further disturbance.

A few months back, Kay Powell indicated that when she visited the graves several years ago, there appeared to be 30 or more stones lying in the pristine woods. When I visited with the Cody family recently, their son Scotty recalled possible 50-60 graves. Today, Robert and I grappled with the briars and wrestled through the undergrowth finding and marking 50 graves, and a few more small stones appearing to be broken off larger ones. We were both excited to have discovered this many.

It looks as if there are 9 or 10 rows in the cemetery and each row may contain about 8 to 16 graves. We estimated there could easily be another 50, or more, graves. After our venture today, the devastation from the logging activities was sadly more apparent. Robert, nor I, found any sign of the remaining 5 or 6 marked graves – one of which we know is William B. McEntire, and another a Powell. As the scouts clear the area, we are optimistic that we will find many more gravestones under logs, limbs, vines and saplings.

The significance of the Mode-McEntire Cemetery has great magnitude. Prior to Union Baptist Church being formed in the mid-1800's, it seems this cemetery was where many community folk were laid to rest during the 1800 to 1855 period. Already it is known that members of the Mode, McEntire, Powell, Williamson and Hord families are buried here. Intense research during the past few months, beyond previous McEntire and Mode searches, has revealed much information that substantiates the importance of the cemetery as a central place of burial for the people of the surrounding area. Over a 80 year period, 100 or so folks were laid to rest there. Today's efforts made for a good day and a good way to bring in 2013.

Burials in the Mode-McEntire Cemetery, Cleveland Co., NC

As of today's date, January 12, 2013, the known burials in the Mode-McEntire Community Cemetery are:

Elizabeth (A or N) Hoard
Died July 1, 1854 Aged 33 years (possibly 93 years)

Selah Moode (Mode)

Died Aug ____ 1845 in her (8th) year (possibly 84th or 34th? Year)

Nancy Williamson

Died Aug 19, 1853 Aged 58 years 7 months

Mary N. Williamson

Died March 5, 1844 Aged 6 years 10 months

Note: Mary was daughter of Nancy Williamson (above)

Archibald "Baldy" Williamson

Note: Daldy was husband of Nancy Williamson (above) and is buried next to her.

His grave is marked with only a fieldstone – and it is there. He was born on April 13, 1794 and died Aug. 15, 1875. This information per Williamson family documents.

William B. McEntire

Note: I have not seen this grave yet, but Kay Powell has seen it. William was born ca 1818 and died in late 1877.

_____ Powell

Note: I have not seen this grave yet, but David Powell, Kay's husband, has seen it when they visited the cemetery a few years ago.

Civil War Veteran – Unknown identity at this time without further research. Nearby neighbor, Henry Clayton & wife, knew of the beautiful marker, which was stolen a number of years ago. This person was very likely Benjamin N. Powell, son of William Powell and Nancy Mode Powell. If so, the following pertains: Benjamin N. Powell – ca 1829 – died 1867, son of William & Nancy Mode Powell.

Served in Co. I, 38th Infantry Regiment as a Private from 1861 – 1864 in the Civil War for North Carolina.

Other people who are, without doubt, buried in this cemetery:

Ransom McEntire – son of William B. McEntire who was born in late 1860's and is said to have lived about four months.

Rebecca Mode McEntire – 1st wife of William B. McEntire and who was niece to Samuel Mode and daughter of Mary Mode (Samuel's sister) and Caleb Ellis. Rebecca died in late 1850's.

Mary Polly Mode (Bartee) McEntire – 2nd wife of William B. McEntire, also a niece of Samuel Mode and daughter of Mary Mode and Caleb Ellis. Polly had previously been married to a Bartee. Polly died in 1884.

Samuel Mode – son of William Mode who lived on the 120 acres he inherited from his father, lived with William B. McEntire, sold the land to William in 1863, and died October 1874. Rebecca Mode (above) lived with Samuel prior to marrying William McEntire.

Isaac Mode – brother to Samuel (above) who died ca 1815 and had lived on the adjoining 80 acres his father, William, left to him.

William Mode – father to Samuel and Isaac (above). William originally purchased the land the cemetery in on in 1796, a 200 acre tract, from Joseph Gregory. William died early 1810 – possibly the earliest grave in cemetery.

Nancy Mode – wife of William Mode and mother of Samuel and Isaac Mode. Nancy died sometime between 1820 and 1830.

Esther R. McEntire – second child of William B. McEntire and Rebecca Mode McEntire. Esther was born June 1850 and died bef. 1860.

James Powell – ca 1782 – died 1850's

Anna/Annie White Mode Powell – ca 1793 – died 1870's (wife 1st of Isaac Mode, listed above, who died in 1815. Later married James Powell (above). James and Anna appear to be parents of Henry H. Powell (below)

Henry H. Powell – 1825 – 1877 (father of Margaret Powell who married Samuel McEntire, son of William B. McEntire)

Others who are likely buried at the cemetery:

Nancy "Nannie" Mode Powell – ca 1813 – died 1880's, 1st wife of William J. Powell.

William Mode – ca 1780 – died bet. 1830-40

Sarah Parker Mode – ca 1780 – died bet. 1830-40, wife of William above, they married in 1801 in then Rutherford County

William M. Mode – ca 1804 – died in 1880's

Mary Mode – ca 1815 – died early 1850's, wife of William M. Mode above.

Milton L. Williamson – son of Baldy & Nancy (above)

Ca 1829 – d. bet. Oct 1867 – 1870

Rachel Newton Williamson – wife of Milton Williamson

Ca 1837 – d. bet. 1886-1900

After Milton's death, Ransom McEntire deeded 1 ½ acres to Rachel and she lived there with her children for many years – and her home was in sight of the cemetery.

The following are people who may have been buried in the cemetery, however, the likelihood may be less than those listed above, or less substantial information is currently available to support this:

Thomas McEntire – ca 1790/95 – died abt. 1860-70

Helen McEntire – ca 1792 – died bet. 1860-70

Richard McEntire – ca 1800 – died bet. 1860-70

Burgess McEntire – ca 1814 – died bet. 1870-80

Mahulda McEntire – ca 1814 – died bet. 1860-70, wife of Burgess

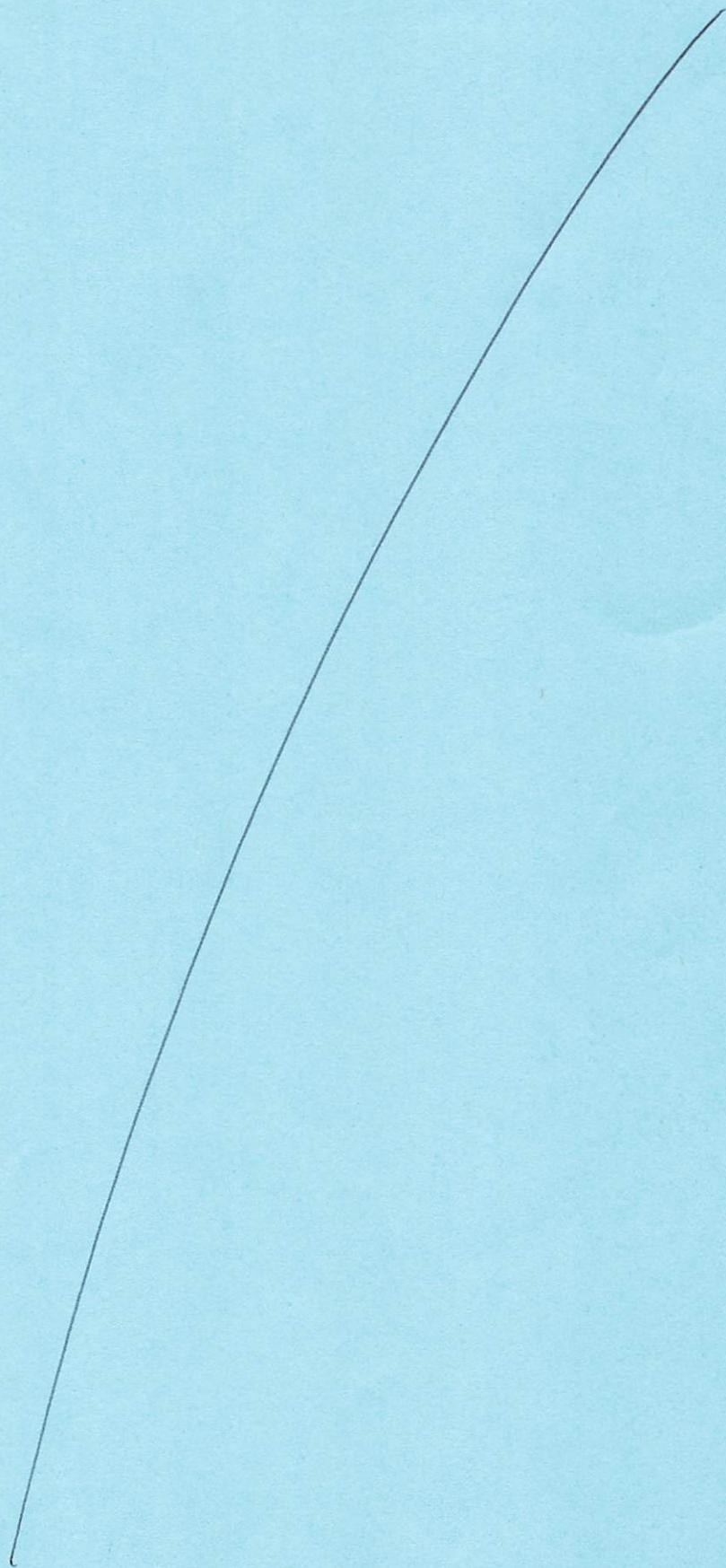
Jane Hord – ca 1820 – died 1850's (prob. The Mary Hord listed as dying May 19, 1855 in Zion records, wife of Jesse Hord)

Two female slaves of John Mode – both elderly by the latter 1800's.

Mary Roxanna McEntire Phillips – ca 1846 -- died 1880's/early 1890's, 1st child of William B. & Rebecca McEntire

Sarah Jane Bartee – ca 1853 – died 1880's/90's, daughter of George and Mary Mode Bartee. She was living with her widowed mother in 1880. (Her mother 2nd wife of William B. McEntire)

Note: After months of intensive research of the Mode family, I offer the following observation. It appears no one actually lived on the original 200 acres until William and



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Revolutionary War Soldiers Buried in Cleveland County, North Carolina

Researched and contributed by

John Barber died March 17, 1799, age 57 and is buried in the Warlick Family Cemetery in Cleveland County, North Carolina.

John Beam (Baum) was born in 1732 and died in 1807. He is buried in the New Prospect Baptist Church Cemetery, located at 1960 New Prospect Church Road, Shelby, Cleveland County, North Carolina.

Tetter Beam is buried in New Prospect Baptist Church Cemetery also. Could John and Teeter be the same person?

Burwell Blanton was born in 1762 and died in 1860. He is buried in the Blanton Family Cemetery located five miles south of Shelby, Cleveland County, North Carolina.

David Blalock – Was he from Cleveland or Rutherford County, and where is he buried.

William Brooks was born in 1745 and died 22 January 1844. He is buried at Sandy Run Baptist Church Cemetery located in Mooresboro, western Cleveland County, North Carolina.

Corneils Clemmetts – Was he from Cleveland or Rutherford County?

Jacob Collins is buried at El Bethel Church.

Samuel Collins was born 21 August 1754 and died 11 January 1836. He married Martha (?) in 1781. They had five children; Jonathan, born 29 March 1782; Nathan, born 13 1784; Sarah, born 9 May 1876; Joseph, born 9 October 1788; and Samuel, birthday not known. He is buried at El Bethel Church.

Edward Cook was born 22 March 1760 and died 7 February 1842. He is buried in the Cook Family Cemetery in upper Cleveland County, North Carolina.

James Cook is buried at Olive Grove Baptist Church.

James Dobbins was born in 1762 in Granville County, North Carolina and lived in the York District of South Carolina. After the war he moved to Rutherford County, North Carolina, and made an application for pension on 23 October 1832. He married Nancy (?) in 1785 and had four children; three were identified as Drewsilla, born 20 March 1786; Susanna born 27 February 1788; and William born 17 February 1790.

William Dobbins is buried in the Dobbins-Harrill Cemetery in Ellenboro, Rutherford County, North Carolina.

William Earl is buried in the Adams Family Cemetery in southeastern Cleveland County.

Martin Elliott is buried in the Elliott Family Cemetery located three miles west of Shelby, Cleveland County, North Carolina.

Frederick Hambright was born 17 May 1727 and died 9 March 1817. He married Mary, daughter of John Dover, on 15 August 1781. Mary was born 9 January 1762 and died 5 May 1835. He had seven children David, Henry, Josiah, Susan, Charlotte, Sophia and Mary. Other children by previous marriage(s) are Frederick and Benjamin..

Price Hamrick - Can someone help us with Price Hamrick?

David Hardin – Could this be the David Hardin buried off Christopher Rd in Shelby?

Housand Harrill – we have many people who are descended from Housand Harrill, perhaps one of them would like to contribute an article about him and his family.

William Holland was born in 1747 and died 19 September 1837. He is buried in the Young Family Cemetery, off Cliffside Highway, Boiling Springs, southwestern Cleveland County, North Carolina.

William Humphries was born 4 June 1760 and died 23 December 1820. He was originally buried in the Humphries Family Cemetery off Highway 180, Boiling Springs, Cleveland County, North Carolina. His remains were moved to Camp's Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Cleveland County, North Carolina, located at 2318 Camp's Creek Church Road, Mooresboro; approximately eleven miles west of Shelby.

James Irvin died on 15 May 1845 at the age of 82. He is buried in the Irvin Family Cemetery, two miles southwest of Beaver Dam Baptist Church, six miles west of Shelby, Cleveland County, North Carolina.

Billie Lucas died on 5 September 1799. He is buried in the Lucas Family Cemetery, Clover Hill Road, near Lawndale, central Cleveland County, North Carolina.

William Magnas – Can someone help us with William Magnas?

Elliott Martin was born in 1750 and died in 1832. He is buried in the Martin Family Cemetery near Shelby, Cleveland County, North Carolina.

David McBrayer was born in 1744 and died in 1813. He is buried in the McBrayer Family Cemetery, east of Mooresboro, western Cleveland County, North Carolina.

David McElrath – does anyone know about David McElrath?

William McEntire was born 10 February 1750 and died ca. 1796. He is buried in the Mode-McEntire Family Cemetery located between Shelby and Polkville, Cleveland County, North Carolina.

William McKinney was born in 1764 and died 31 October 1857. He is buried in the McKinney Family Cemetery near Lattimore, western Cleveland County, North Carolina.

Willis McKinney is buried in the McKinney Family Cemetery near Lattimore, western Cleveland County, North Carolina.

William McSwain – we have McSwain descendents by the score in our area, would one of you consider telling us about William McSwain and his family?

Benjamin Newton was born 3 February 1748 and died 20 February 1835. He is buried in the old Clever Hill Cemetery, one-half mile from the present site of Clover Hill Methodist Church, Casar, Northern Cleveland County, North Carolina.

George Painter – Does anyone know about George Painter?

William Patterson died 7 October 1780 at the Battle of Kings Mountain. He is buried in the Old Shiloh Presbyterian Church Cemetery, on Mull Farm, southern Cleveland County, North Carolina, one mile southeast of Grover.

John Pruitt was born in 1756 and died 30 April 1837. He is buried in the Pisgah Baptist Church Cemetery, near Casar, off Highway 10, northern Cleveland County, North Carolina.

Martin Roberts was born in 1758 and died in 1834. He is buried in the Roberts Family Cemetery near Shelby, Cleveland County, North Carolina.

Jermiah Runyan – Does anyone know about Jermiah Runyan?

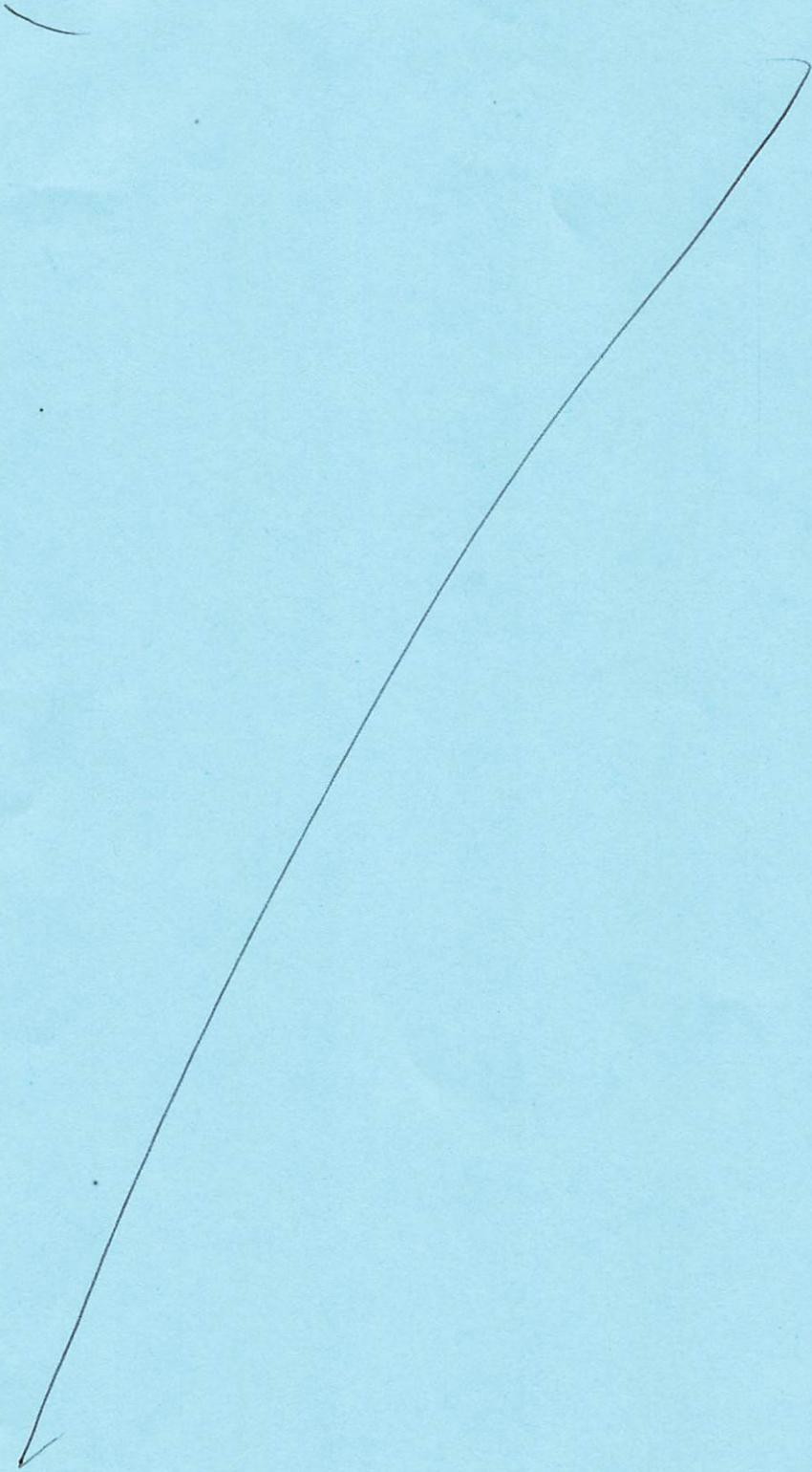
Gabriel Washburn was born 12 October 1752 and died 8 January 1826. He is buried in the Washburn Family Cemetery near Lattimore, Cleveland County, North Carolina.

Willis Weathers died in 1840. He is buried in the Weathers Family Cemetery, one-half mile northeast of Zion Baptist Church, Cleveland County, North Carolina. The church is located at 525 West Zion Church Road, Shelby, North Carolina.

David Williams – Does anyone know about David Williams?

Joseph Willis is buried in St. Peter's United Methodist Church Cemetery, located at 108 St. Peter's Church Road, Lawndale, central Cleveland County, North Carolina.

Job Wright is buried in the Wright Family Cemetery, in the McBrayer Springs section of Shelby, Cleveland County, North Carolina.



The following data was taken by me from inscriptions on tomb stones erected at graves in original cemetery of old Pisgah A.R.P. Church, formerly situated just east of Kings Mountain on south side of State Highway in Gaston County, overlooking Baker's Mill Pond, and enclosed by a well built stone wall. Data was listed July 13th, 1938.

P. Cleveland Gardner,
County Historian
Shelby, North Carolina

William Winter, d. 1845, aged 75 years

Edward Winter, d. 1811, aged _____

Andrew Falls, d. March 11, 1796, aged 63 years.

Capt. John Ferguson, d. Oct. 26, 1816, aged 26 years.

John Falls, d. April 23, 1828, aged 84 years.

John Wilson, d. June 3, 1844, aged 72 years.

John McGill, d. Feby. 13, 1819, aged 51 years.

John Service, d. Nov.6, 1799, aged 30 years.

John Gammey(Gammy) d. Feby.25, 1826, aged 81 years.

Samuel Wilson, d.Nov. 22, 1803, aged 80 years.

Margaret Wilson d. June 9, 1857, aged 97 years.

Thomas Ferguson, d. June 26, 1832, aged 72 years.

Andrew Carson, d. Jan. 20, 1799, aged 55 years.

Andrew Falls, d. May 26, 1840. aged 71 years.

Note: This cemetery has a fine stone wall erected around it about three and one-half feet high, and some two and one-half thick, with hand made iron gate at Southside. It is a large grave yard and one of the oldest in Western North Carolina. there are more Revolutionary War soldiers buried in this cemetery than any grave yard I have ever seen. the farm on which this cemetery is now located is owned by Dr. Ramsour of Kings Mountain, N.C., and has been cleaned off by him several times within the last six or eight years.

This the 13th day of July, 1938.

P. Cleveland Gardner

P. Cleveland Gardner,
County Historian,
Shelby, North Carolina.

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