

A Step Back in Time By Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas

For the past couple of months I've asked the Eagleville Times readers to send in information on their family cemeteries. I want to thank Emalyn Pinkerton for her "Nathan Jackson Grave Yard" information, Ellie Wilkinson for the White Cemetery and Ms. Anderson, the Egypt Cemetery. If anyone would like to send in information on their family cemetery for future articles, please call 615-274-6282.



NATHAN JACKSON GRAVE YARD

The earliest marker or a gravesite in the Nathan Jackson Grave Yard has a date of 1849. Subsequent to that burial others followed. On September 7, 1889, W. R. Jackson for the amount of \$25.00 transferred and conveyed to Indiana Jackson "...certain lot or parcel of land for the following purpose, to be used for a family burying ground for herself, her children and her grandchildren. Said lot or parcel of land is now known as the Nathan Jackson Grave Yard, and is located in Civil District No. 10 of Rutherford County, Tennessee and is to be laid off in a square containing forty square poles around and enclosing the said grave yard...." That deed was registered September 7, 1889.



The Jackson Grave Yard is still maintained by the descendants of Indiana Jackson. In recent years the "Forty Square Poles" and galvanized-wire cemetery fence were replaced by an iron fence, maintaining the original fence line. Adjacent is the unfenced parking lot. It is unusual for the older cemeteries in Tennessee to have deeds to the property.



WHITE CEMETERY

The White Cemetery is located on Highway 99 (In an open field across from Ditch Lane) on property previously owned by William C. White.

Buried in the White Cemetery: William C. White b. 6-8-1811 d. 2-26-1874 and his wife Eliza Taylor White b. 11-25-1817 d. 8-8-1868 and their children:

Julia A. b. 2-6-1839 d. 4-5-1897 and her husband, Amasa Webb Manire Sr. b.2-8-1837 d. 7-22-1915. (Dr. Amasa Manire was a doctor who practiced before and after the civil war around Needmore and Versailles, Tennessee. He served in the Confederate army as a hospital steward and detailed assistant surgeon during the Civil War.)

- (1) Amanda W. b. 9-1-1845 d. 1-1-1868
- (2) John T. b. 1-5-1848 d. 4-8-1869
- (3) Sarah C. b. 11-4-1855 d. 10-8-1868
- (4) Joseph C. b. 10-10-1858 d. 10-14-1872

Other children of William C. and Eliza Taylor White not buried in the White Cemetery:

(5) Mary Frances b. 4-7-1843 d. 9-18-1896, married James Nathaniel Puckett b. 1-18-1845 d. 3-20-1914. Mary Frances and James Nathaniel Puckett are buried in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

(6) William Carol, b. 12-29-1851 d. 7-10-1913, married Eliza Cothran b. 10-29-1856 d. 1-14-1880, (great grandparents of Ellie Scott Wilkinson). When Eliza Cothran White died, the family wanted to bury her on the farm owned by her father, Pleas Cothran, who owned 600 acres of land in Bedford County, near the Rutherford County line. A gravesite was selected, thus the Cothran Cemetery, near Rover, was established by the land donated by Pleas in about 1880. Tabitha White (grandmother of Ellie Wilkinson) b. 7-18-1879 was only six months old when her mother, Eliza, died. Tabitha married Stephen Elmore "Shack" Bennett b.1-17-1877 d. 2-27-1936. They are buried in the Bennett Cemetery.

William C. White and his family lived on Highway 99 east of the intersection of Mt. Pleasant Road. William was killed when someone shot through a window at his home. His son-in-law, James Nathaniel Puckett, was tried for murder, due to an argument over money, but he was acquitted of the crime.



William C. White

Old Area Cemeteries

Other gravesites in the White Cemetery:

Caswell Puckett b. 4-7-1813 d. 1-29-1865 and wife, Malinda Cooper Puckett b. 4-30-1814 d. 8-17-1877 (Parents of James Nathaniel Puckett who married Mary Frances, daughter of William C. White.

James John Gillespie b. 12-29-1835 d. 4-11-1862, a brother to William Cheatham Gillespie, who married Beth Puckett, daughter of Caswell & Malinda Puckett

J. W. White b.1-8-1822 d. 3-19-1908 possibly brother to William C. White.



EGYPT CEMETERY

The Egypt Cemetery is located in Marshall County on Egypt Road, which is off of Thick Road, near Holts Corner. This well-kept fenced cemetery is quite large with more land being cleared across the road. It is believed that this cemetery was the former Biggers Family Cemetery, the name being later changed to the Egypt Cemetery. While walking through this cemetery, the large number of gravesite that is marked with military markers is very noticeable.

Many different family names are found on the tombstones including; Smith, McClain, Cash, Robertson, Crutcher, Hamner, Rucker, Braden, Biggers, McCord, Oglesby, Johnson and Thomas.



ELMORE CEMETERY

Candy Roll for Children

The deed to the Elmore Cemetery, located near Rover, was recorded April 14, 1852. Joint property owners, James Mankin and James Smith deeded this property...for and in consideration of the good will they bear the Community in which they live, and for the better securing the convenience of themselves and neighbors..... to John W. Hamlin Esq., Chairman of the County Court of Bedford County as Trustee and his successors in office forever.

It isn't known when the first burial was held in this location. As most country cemeteries, many of the earliest graves were never marked. The two oldest marked grave sites, with tombstones are; James A. B. Smith, son of James and Lavina Smith, born in 1824, died 1832 and Mary Ann Anderson, born in 1811 and died in 1832 at the age of 21. Several Elmore Family members, with early death dates, are also buried in this cemetery, ensuing it being named, the Elmore Cemetery. Mr. David Atha Elmore and wife, Elizabeth Ellen Elmore are buried near the entrance of the cemetery. They were married in 1851 and died within hours of each other on March 15, 1900. They had a double funeral at the Eagleville Baptist Church and buried in a double grave.



Charlie Jackson Presenting Candy to Irene Hall for Being The Oldest Lady Present

Among the Elmore and Smith family names buried here, are: Redmond, Helton, Delk, Anderson, Clark, Rowland, Davis, Powel, Underwood, Hawkins, Lamb, Nelson, Binkley, Rhinehart, Wright, Casteel, Jackson, Burton, Hoofnail, Beasley, Hooper, Shearin, Ghee, Noblett, Pope, Gillespie, and Lynch. Several graves marked with fieldstones, no inscription.

On the fourth Sunday of August each year, a very special decoration service is held at this cemetery. Beginning in August, 1924, when Lela Beasley Ghee and Mary Beasley

Hudson and their cousin Adelaide Lamb Casteel were needing a place for a family reunion. Adelaide's sister, Nannie Lee Lamb Jackson and her family were visiting from North Carolina and a family get-to-gather was in the planning. In searching for a place for all the families to meet, it was decided that the cemetery would be a good location, since it would also be a time to decorate the graves of loved ones. Basket lunches were carried and shared and the graves were decorated with hand-made crepe paper flowers. The children played horseshoes, ball games and other games in the field next to the cemetery and the older folks caught up on all the family news. After lunch everyone took part in a short memorial service with scripture reading, preaching and singing.

This year on August 28th 2010, a large group of descendants of the early Lamb and Beasley families gathered for the 86th year for this decoration/family reunion. The graves were decorated with flowers. Everyone enjoyed a pot-luck lunch and afterwards, a short memorial service was held, conducted by Charlie Jackson, the son of Warren Jackson* and a grandson of Nannie Lee Lamb Jackson.

Following the service, the traditional candy roll was held. The children enjoyed picking

up wrapped candy that was thrown over the empty section of the cemetery. A box of candy was given to the oldest man and woman in attendance. An offering is taken each year to take care of the up-keep of the cemetery. Although this occasion may seem odd to many, this gathering is still serving two purposes – re-uniting with family members and returning to visit the graves of loved ones. (I have attended many of these reunions/decorations at the Elmore Cemetery with my grandmother, Mary Beasley Hudson, who helped to get this tradition started. She worked for weeks, making the crepe paper flowers to decorate the graves of her parents and other family members. She only missed the last couple of years before her death 1966.)

*Warren Jackson who is 94 years old, living in Kentucky, was 8 years old when he attended the first decoration/reunion in 1924 and has only missed a few since the beginning. His children have also attended most of their lifetime too. Warren's youngest daughter, Mary Ann, was in attendance the first 46 years of her life, only missing the last three years. This family is to be commended for supporting and continuing this tradition through the years.