

THE PRESENCE OF THE PAST

Epitaphs of 18th and 19th Century Pioneers
in Greenville County, South Carolina,
and Their Descendants,

Natives of Virginia, Pennsylvania,
and other original thirteen states,
together with those who came from
Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany
and other foreign countries.



Compiled by

Mrs. Beverly T. Whitmire, the late Mrs. H. C. Schroder
and others

Arranged and Edited by

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The Greenville County Historical Society



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DIRECTIONS FOR USING THIS BOOK

Locate the record of an individual by finding the name in the index. It will give you the number of the cemetery in which the person is listed.

If you know the name of the cemetery in which the person is listed, turn to the alphabetical list of cemeteries, in the front of the book, and get the number of the cemetery, and turn to that number. Do not confuse cemetery numbers with page numbers, as cemeteries are listed by number only, not by page numbers in the book.

For ease in using these records, names in larger cemeteries have been placed in alphabetical order, as to the first letter of the last name,

In beginning this work, only older stones were copied, but it was soon found that this was not adequate, and the plan of copying all stones in each cemetery was adopted.

Because of labor involved and for brevity in getting the records into print, it was usually impossible to include more than names and dates, and numerals have been used instead of months being written out.

Directions for reaching each cemetery are included, so that more information may be obtained by anyone who wishes to visit a cemetery and copy the entire epitaph.

If you do not find the name you are seeking in the main index, try the supplemental index for those persons whose records were obtained after the main index had been completed.

INTRODUCTION

This collection of epitaphs, and additional information, is presented in an effort to preserve records of pioneer and other early families of Greenville County, South Carolina.

In recent years, rapid expansion of highways, industrial plants, and public buildings and airports , combined with housing developments, have erased old landmarks, old boundaries , homes and plantations. Many family and public cemeteries have thus fallen prey to these land use changes, though to disturb a cemetery is unlawful and subject to heavy penalty. Farmers, too, have sometimes piled tombstones in the center of a plot and plowed around early graves.

All tombstones and rock markers were examined carefully and noted faithfully , often with the help of chalk, brushes, and sometimes soap and water. Where broken, if they could be pieced together, they were read, and it was often necessary to retrieve parts of broken ones from the graves into which they had fallen. Others were dug from beneath vines and decayed vegetation. Briars, poison oak, fallen trees and brambles added to the difficulty of finding and copying the stones.

Under the circumstances of faded epitaphs, weather stains, and breaks, there will be mistakes, no doubt, and corrections will be welcomed, if the corrections are based on proven sources , rather than memory or heresay.

The large number of children's graves was disturbing, and it was noted that the life span was generally shorter in years gone by. Also, that there were numerous people in the county who were born in the 1700s. It was found , after some copying had been done, that it was best to include all the graves in a cemetery. Otherwise children who died during the early years of the county,would be included, and their parents who

died later would be excluded. Unless otherwise stated, all stones in a cemetery were copied. It is good to think that the later epitaphs have been copied, before they too get too old to read. And it is also gratifying that another Greenville group plans to complete copying those cemeteries in Greenville County which were not reached in this study. A list of those not reached has been furnished them.

Veterans of nine wars are included, beginning with the Indian wars. One section is devoted to Revolutionaries War soldiers connected with this county, where the stones so indicated, or records could be found, if they once lived here, whether or not they are buried in this county.

Church histories are reflected on tombstones of founders, church officials, and devoted workers. Slaves are honored, and family doctors lauded in one cemetery. On plantations, there was usually one graveyard for whites, with the owners in the center and slaves on the outer rims. Some older plots were enclosed with rock walls, or a mound of earth, usually in circular form, making a kind of fence. Later there were wrought iron fences.

Many an early settler is in an unmarked grave, because there was no way to get marble stones in those days; and field stones have long since decayed. When marble stones were introduced, they were imported from Richmond, Va. or Charleston, S.C.. Some markers were home made of a kind of material which resembles concrete, but the usual hand made stone was a field rock, with possibly only initials and dates chiseled on. Where flint stones were used, some carved before 1800 can still be read, especially at Mt. Bethel Methodist Church, where the same man chiseled many, with great skill. The expression "tomb rock" is still a standard name for field stone markers in upper Greenville County. Older residents there scoff at anyone who would select anything but flint stone to mark a grave, when marble is not available, because of cost.

Tales are told of Indians being buried in this county after they were killed by early settlers. One doubts if this is true, as Indians were in the habit of carrying off their dead after a battle, and there were few, if any, permanent Indian settlements in what is now Greenville County, and was then their hunting ground. Certainly, few would be found in established cemeteries.

Some early ministers would be literally unknown were it not for the cemeteries, in some of which five or six are buried, their stones giving information as to churches they served. Other ministers are buried in isolated places, in fields, and lost in woods. One was found in a cattle pasture. These should be moved to the churches they served. Plantation burying grounds are the best means of telling who lived where when the county was young. Often the old house has disappeared, but the family cemetery can still be found.

Styles in grave markers have changed, even as do styles in clothing. One can look over a large cemetery and at once see the oldest part by the shape of the stones. The oldest were of two kinds, a rather thin, upright slab, rounded at the top, or graves enclosed by walls of marble, brick, or stone, topped by an engraved slab. The newest are of pillow type, close to the ground, and subject to being covered with mud, unless placed on gravel or grass. In some places new monuments have been placed, where old ones have deteriorated.

It has been impossible to include all that has been learned about Greenville County pioneers, in trips to the cemeteries, to the homes of descendants, to the Greenville County Courthouse for public records, and in consulting early books, as D.A.R. records, old newspapers, Crittenden's Century Book, Landrum's History of Spartanburg County, State Archives in Columbia, the North and South Carolina issue of the National Genealogical Quarterly, Snowden's History of South Carolina, the South Carolina

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Historical and Genealogical Magazine and various Virginia histories, for the backgrounds of many who came from that state.

Would that someone in this county cared enough to start a movement to have tombstones now in isolated and forgotten places moved to an established cemetery. In Virginia, churches have offered grounds for such purposes, and thus many private cemeteries have been moved to places of safety. If the stones only are moved, it could be done in a short time, with little expense, following our present state laws regarding them.

Mrs. Beverly T. Whitmire

March 1976

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CEMETERIES

<u>CEMETERY</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Abner Creek Baptist	180
Adams	47
Antioch Presbyterian Church	98
Ashmore	61
Ashmore	74
Assistants	184
Austin	174
Bailey-Cunningham	156
Bates	161
Benson	76
Bishop	190
Berea Baptist Church	1
Bethel Methodist Church	3
Blossingame	28
Boswell	113
Blythe	2
Bramlett	60
Bruce	4
Brushy Creek Baptist Church	97
Campbell	81
Carter	23
Charles	52
Chastain	108
Choice	18
Christ Episcopal Church	20

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CEMETERIES PAGE 2.

	<u>Number</u>
Clark	110
Cleveland	31
Cleveland Park Removals	169
Columbia Baptist Church	103
Cox's Chapel	96
Crymes	126
Abner Cureton	155
Davenport	24
Davetown Baptist Church	125
Davis	127
Death Notices From Greenville Mountaineer	54
Douthit	168
Duncan Chapel	70
Dunn's Rock Baptist Church	177
Ebenezer Methodist	146
E.R.	124
Earle	36
Earle-Stone	38
Ebenezer Baptist Church	134
Edgewood	12
Edwards (At Church)	63
Edwards	149
Enoree Baptist Church	159
Fairview Presbyterian Church	93
Few's Chapel (old site)	111
Freeman	188

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CEMETERIES , PAGE 3

	Number
Payne-Moon-Garrison	131
Fork Shoals Baptist	172
Friendship Baptist	41
Forrester-Southern	78
Forrester	5
Fowler	165
Gantt	37
Gap Creek Church	119
Garrison	11
Glenn (Old Site)	130
Goodlett	48
Goodlett (Abandoned)	49
George Green	123
Glassy Mountain Baptist Church	152
Gowansville Baptist Church	144
Grace Chapel Church	32
Green, William	189
Greenville Mountaineer Death Norices	54
Gresham	84
Hammitt (old)	148
Harbin-Howell	91
Hardin	175
Harrison	92
Hart	56
Hawkins-Green	147
Hawkins-Shockley	199

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CEMETERIES, PAGE 4

	Number
Hightower	79
Highland Baptist Church (Dickey's Chapel)	128
Hightower-Hagood	118
Hite-Morgan	185
Howard	193
Howell	27
Hudson	87
Huff	67
Huff-Payne	89
Hyde	6
Jackson Grove Methodist Church	109
Jenkinson	62
Jenkins, Raleigh	187
Jones, Middleton	135
Jones, John J.	136
Jones, E. (of Fountain Inn)	125
Jones, near Pumpkintown	66
Jones, Solomon	182
Joyce	143
Kellett-Babb	106
Kilgore-Brockman	13
Lebanon Methodist Church	16
Lebanon Methodist Church (old site)	17
Laurel Creek Baptist Church	153
Oak Grove Baptist Church	157
Lickville Presbyterian Church	170

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CEMETERIES, PAGE 5. Number

Lima Baptist Church (old site)	117
Lima Baptist Church	95
Lester	7
Lynch	181
Machen	114
McClanahan	58
McCullough-Donaldson	14
McCullough	19
McCuen	57
MdDaniel	8
Mastin Grove	192
James McDavid	83
John McDavid	39
McWhite	132
Marietta First Baptist Church	50
Mauldin First Baptist Church	46
Maxwell	86
Middle River Baptist Church	162
Miller, Israel	139
Miller	68
Milford Baptist Church	186
Norris	29
Mosteller	171
Mt. Bethel Methodist Church	102
Mt. Carmel Methodist Church	55
Mountain Creek Methodist Church	151

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CEMETERIES, PAGE 6.	Number
Mountain Creek Baptist Church	42
Mush Creek Baptist Church	150
New Liberty Baptist Church	160
Nazareth Presbyterian Church	104
North Fork Southern Baptist Church	154
Oak Grove Baptist Church	157
Oak Hill Presbyterian Church	178
Paris-Townes	51
Paris Mountain State Park (Abandoned)	176
Parkins	40
Pierce (Also known as Belue)	69
Pickett	115
Pisgah Methodist Church	173
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	166
Poole	112
Pool	155 & 163
Powell	129
Rector	85
Reedy River Baptist Church	82
Revolutionary War Soldiers	59
Rice-Ragsdale	71
Richardson (abandoned)	10
Rock Hill Baptist Church	101
Rocky Creek Baptist Church	179
Ross	141
Rowland	35

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CEMETERIES, P. 7.

Number

Rush	80
Salmon	145
Sandy Springs Baptist Church	167
Sheffield	45
Sheldon	116
Shannon Green	123
Shockley	196
Shockley (Hunt's Bridge Rd.)	199
Shockley	142
Simpsonville	121
Smith, Benjamin	138
Smith, Hamby Dr.	194
Smith, Donaldson Center	72
Smith, Riley	195
Springfield (Dicey Langston)	158
Springwood (City of Greenville)	22
Standings Springs Church	122
Stokes, Hugha	44
Stokes, Jeremiah	64
Stokes, John	65
Talley's Farm	145
Taylor-McKinney	43
Taylor	88
Tyger Church	75
Townsend-Waddill	25
Travelers Rest Methodist Church	53

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CEMETERIES, PAGE 8.

	Number
Traynham No. 1	15
Traynham No. 2	21
Turner-Hill	30
Walker, Pelham Rd.	140
Walker, Roper Mt.Rd.	33
Walker, Samuel	137
Ware	90
Washington Baptist Church	94
Watson, Fisher Dr.	77
Watson, Old Easley Bridge Rd.	133
Welcome Baptist Church (older stones only)	100
West	73
Westfield-Rosamond	26
Westmoreland (Abandoned)	107
White Oak Baptist Church (oldest stones)	99
Wilson & Peace	120
Woodside	191
Yeargin	9
Capt. Billy Young	34
Capt. John Young Cemetery Site (See No. 59)	
"Zupon" Cemetery	197.