

A Walking Tour of the Graveyard at Allison Creek Presbyterian Church

July 19, 2010

In 2003, John Cloninger took George Meyer into the woods to the east of the cemetery next to the church and showed him several old headstones marking graves in a “slave graveyard”. After that George became interested and began to see what he could find out about it, and undertook the task of locating the graves, identifying the occupants where possible, and locating the perimeter of the graveyard more precisely.

A few of the graves were marked with inscribed head stones, others were simply marked with field stones placed at the head of the graves, and many were unmarked but could be located by depressions in the ground. Initially the visible headstones were identified with small red flags. After that the unmarked depressions were marked, in 2009 the flags were replaced with more permanent aluminum rods with white Fleur-De-Lis finials.

In 2008, Brian Elgort undertook the task of clearing debris from the graveyard and constructing a path around the perimeter as his Eagle Scout project... Baird Engineering volunteered to help by preparing a plat of the graveyard.

By the end of 2006, more than 200 graves had been located. The graves appeared to lie within five separate groups. Fourteen graves with legible inscribed headstones were found within the five groups. Additional gravesites were found when the graves were re-marked in 2009. Gaulden Monuments Inc. was hired to repair, clean and reset the damaged engraved headstones at that time. The total number gravesite identified is now more than 300.

In 2010 Gaulden Monuments was hired to make seven monuments to place along the path. The Monuments are intended to point out the locations of the five groups along with the names of the people buried there the groups are as follows:



Group 1 (Near the south west limit of the graveyard)

Last Name	First Name	Born	Died
Hill	Monroe	Nov.5, 1852	Jul.23,1869
Knox	Rachel	Feb. 8, 1844	Apr.9, 1870
Hill	Dorcas	May 15, 1780	Jul 16, 1870
Tate	Mary A.	Aug. 2, 1862	Jun. 10, 1868
Hemphill	Infant	May 28, 1880	May 28, 1880

There appear to be approximately 126 graves in this general area.



Group 2 (Near south east limit of the graveyard)

There appear to be approximately 15 graves in this general area. Only one grave has an inscribed stone.

Fannie Dau(ghter) of
John & Jamie
Douglass
Born Feb 15 1895
Died
Jan 28 1896



Group 3 (Near eastern limit of the graveyard)

Last Name	First Name	Born	Died
Meek	Samuel	Apr. 9, 1887	Oct., 1887
Meek	Nannie	1869	Dec.2, 1889

There appear to be approximately 42 graves in this general area.



Group 4 (Near center of the graveyard)

Last Name	First Name	Born	Died
Hagins	Martha	Dec. 24, 1884	May 16, 1895
Chote	Alice	(1829)	Feb. , 1893
Tate	Scynthia	Oct. 17, 1870	Dec. 5, 1895
Tate	Jordan J.	1822	Nov. 5, 1890

There appear to be approximately 31 graves in this general area.



Group 5 (Near North West limit of the graveyard)

There appear to be approximately 58 graves in this general area plus another 8, slightly to the east of the larger group.

At first, only one inscribed stone was found in the group. The surface of the stone is extremely rough which makes the inscription very difficult to read. We believe the translation of the inscription shown below is accurate.

Sacred
To The Memory
Of Mrs.
Aigie Steele
Departed
This Life May 21st
1850 Age 64 Years

There is also a broken stone near this stone, the part with the inscription has not yet been found. In addition to that, another headstone was found to the west of Mrs. Steele's headstone overturned and buried under debris. It was later restored and reset by Gaudlen Monuments. The inscription on it reads:



Iler
Dau(ghter) Of Charlie
And Josephine
Williams
Born
Aug 20 1893
Died July 10 1895

There may have been one or two letters before “iler” in the inscription at one time..



If you have enjoyed your tour and would like to contribute to the maintenance of this important bit of local history, a graveyard maintenance account has been set up at the church. Any funds in the account will be dedicated to keeping the path and graveyard free of fallen debris and making such repairs to the grave markers as may become necessary.

