

DATA.047 TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS OF THE OLD BIGBEE CEMETERY WHICH IS ALSO KNOWN LOCALLY AS THE OLD WILLIAMS CEMETERY IN GREEN COUNTY ALABAMA NEAR PLEASANT RIDGE.

Some of the following information came from Mrs. Jeannette B. Christopher, and I quote her: "This cemetery was on private property and, when I last visited in 1974 was in bad shape, very overgrown. Fortunately, I had copied the following inscriptions in 1965 on my first visit to the cemetery.

SAVILLA HILL'S grave and those of her son and daughter and their families, are the first graves in the cemetery in front of what must have been the "gate." This is a large cemetery with many South Carolinians buried therein, including the Pearsons, John and Sarah (Hill) Pearson and their son Moses Hill Pearson and his family."

The following by Robert R. Hill...."This cemetery is located off Highway 14, just outside of Pleasant Ridge, in Greene County Alabama. My son and I visited it in July of 1986 and found that it was located beside a church that is used by Blacks. I could find nothing left (or any remains) of a gate that Jeannette mentioned. The cemetery is very badly overgrown with bushes full of thorns, trees and heavy undergrowth. The leaves and silt are about 6 to 10 inches deep. While it is said to be on private property, the Historical Society says that the owner is now unknown. A local store owner, whom appears quite old himself, claimed that steamboats once could navigate through the rivers to a landing nearby to service the old plantations. He said that he knew the cemetery as the Old Williams Cemetery, but that the local blacks referred to it as the Hill Cemetery. The Green County Historical Society refers to it as the "OLD BIGBEE CEMETERY."

Some of the inscriptions follows:

1. "SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF SAVILLA N. HILL, who departed this life on the 23rd of July 1844 in the 85th year of her age. Widow of MOSES HILL, ESQ. who departed this life in Fairfield District South Carolina on the 1st day of July 1821 in the 63rd year of his age. Though their bodies are interred many miles apart, yet, on the morning of the resurrection, they will meet to part no more. They were both for many years exemplary members of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

Note to above and Number 2: In July 1986, my son and I visited this cemetery and found a large tree had some time ago fell on top of Savilla's grave. Her marker was holding the tree off the ground, but the marker of her son, George Washington Hill, (see # 2. below) who's grave is next to

hers, was knocked to the ground and was lying by her marker. The tree was already beginning to rot, indicating the tree falling had happened some time ago. It offered some protection from the elements to Savilla's marker.

2. GEORGE W. HILL (he son of Moses & Savilla Hill)

Died September 1857

"He is not dead but sleeping."

Note: Reference # 2, later research shows that George W. Hill had died on 8th September 1857. (Ref. Goodspeeds Abstracts).

3. ON ONE LARGE STONE (all children of George W. Hill & wife Sarah A. Moore)

Hillard Judge Hill
born Jan. 19th, 1837
died Nov. 30, 1845

Infant
born May 23, 1848
died Dec. 30th 1848

Mrs. Rebecca S. Sanders
born Feb. 22, 1829 (1831?)
died Jan 9, 1854

Thomas Jefferson Hill
born Aug 6th, 1834
died July 10th, 1853

Mrs. Justina Virginia Clanton
born Dec. 4th, 1839
died March 20th, 1857

John Moore Hill
born Feb. 22, 1843
died Feb. 18th 1853

4. George Hill (McGowin)
infant son of John S. & Della McGowin
born July 26th 1869
died Jan. 17th 1870

Reference #4, this is believed to be a grandson of George W. Hill & wife Sarah A. Moore

4A. John Moore Hill	4B. Wm. Judge Hill
b. Feb. 22, 1843	b. Jan. 19, 1837
d. Feb. 18, 1853	d. Nov. 30, 1845

NOTE: They both were sons of George W. Hill (#2)

NOTE BY MRS. CHRISTOPHER: If wife of George W. Hill, SARAH A. MOORE is buried here, we could not find the grave.
(Additional comments by Robert R. Hill Sr.: She is buried here but marker missing. Green County Historical Society has a record of it but we did not find it on our visit of July 1986).

NOTE BY ROBERT HILL: (REF TO SARAH A. MOORE, SEE NUMBER 15).

5. "To the memory of REBECCA C. (CARLISLE) DEGRAFFENREID, wife of Dr. T. DeGraffenreid...the deceased was born 20th December 1807 and married to the Doctor on 25th March 1828 and bided of billious fever on the 11 August 1842, leaving a fond & affectionate husband, 3 sons and an infant daughter to lament the loss. She was the daughter of Moses Hill Esq. of Fairfield District S.C. She was a respectable member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for near 20 years and died in peace."

6. Elizabeth DeGraffenreid
born Aug.23, 1841
died of Rheumatism of the heart
on July 16, 1857

(NOTE: She was 3rd and last daughter of Rebecca).

7. Rebecca H. DeGraffenreid
born Feb. 25, 1833
died of billious fever on April 15, 1842

NOTE: Greene Co. Historical Society states death in August ?

8. Celestia F.S. DeGraffenreid
born March 26, 1839
died of billious fever on Aug. 12th, 1842

9. John F. DeGraffenreid
Born March 8th, 1831
Died April 21st, 1886

NOTE: The following graves 10, 11 & 12 were children of John F. DeGraffenreid (#8) & Ann Eliza DeGraffenreid.

10. John Calhoun (DeGraffenreid)
born July 2, 1852
died April 26, 1854

11 . Christopher M. (DeGraffenreid)
born Nov. 1st, 1856
died Sept. 19th 1857

12. Trezevant (DeGraffenreid)
born Dec. 11th, 1858
died Aug. 22, 1859.

NOTE: Historical Society copied marker as:

born Dec. 4th 1858
died Apr. 22, 1859

13. Phillip Edward Hill Jr. (Relationship unknown)
born Nov. 26, 1877
Died Nov. 19th, 1925

14. Eliza Aiken Hill
wife of L.C. Hill
Born Apr. 1809
Died March 14th 1876

The above inscriptions provided by Mrs. Christopher and some were copied by my Daughter, who visited the cemetery in August of 1983.

Other Names in the cemetery were Wills, Kirkland, Williams, Sims, Coleman, Hutton, Pearson (including Moses Hill Pearson, only son of Rev. John Pearson & his 2nd wife Sarah Hill, another daughter of Moses & Savilla Hill #1) and Clanton. There probably others but the heavy undergrowth prevents seeing them.

The following provided by Mrs. Franklin S. Mosley, 107 Eutaw Ave, Eutaw, Alabama 35462

15. SARAH A. MOORE
Dau of -----?
Born 1807 in S.C.
Died December 23, 1864

(This is the wife of George W. Hill # 2) and I am told copied long ago before cemetery became in bad shape. Neither Mrs. Christopher, my daughter nor myself saw this grave, but it is now probably buried under inches of silt). A question in my mind is...Why is she not listed as Sarah Hill? It seems apparent that her grave is not beside that of husband George.

16. Martha A. Pearson, wife of Moses H. Pearson
born December 29th 1828
died March 19th 1848

NOTE by Robert Hill...This was Martha A. Coleman, 1st wife of Moses Hill Pearson, who was the only son of Sarah Hill, a daughter of Moses Hill Esq. & wife Savilla N. (Roden) Hill #2 grave. Sarah Hill Pearson was 2nd of 3 wives of Rev. John Pearson and they both moved from Fairfield District S.C. ca. April-May 1831. Presbyterian Church, Gainesville, Ala. by John L. Kirkpatrick, Bishop. (Reference Greene Co. Marriage Book B, page 416). The 1850 Census states that Moses Hill Pearson was born in N.C. and was 27 years old in that census.

Moses Hill Pearson, son of Rev. John Pearson and 2nd wife Sarah Hill (dau. of Moses & Savilla Hill of Fairfield

District S.C.) married 2nd time to Nancy R. Hutton on 9th February 1850 by F. Bradshaw V.D.M. (Reference Green Co. Marriage Book C, page 27)..

"Goodspeeds Abstracts of Mississippi Memoirs 1891" states that Rev. John Pearson was born in S.C. ca. 1785. He married 3rd time to Margaret Forbes in N.C. and moved to Green County with her in 1836. (He already lived in Green Co prior to that with his 2nd wife Sarah Hill). John & Margaret Forbes Pearson (3rd wife) also had one child, a son named WILLIAM EDMOND PEARSON, born in Green Co., Ala in 1836. He became a medical doctor (M.D.) moved to Kemper County Mississippi in 1860 and fought in the Civil War for the CSA. His father Rev. John Pearson died in Green County Alabama in 1836, same year son William was born.

17. Augustus G., son of J.M. and E.J. Hutton
b. Sept 23, 1841
d. Jan 7, 1898

18. Eliza Hutton
b. Bibb Co., Ala.
d. May 15, 1818 Green Co., wife of Augustus Hutton

19. John N. (Newton) Hutton
b. Abbeville Dist. S.C. June 3, 1807
d. Green Co. Dec. 11, 1877

20. John A. son of John N. & Eliza J. Hutton
b. Aug 24, 1849
d. June 30, 1852

21. Sallie A. Hutton Hatter
1848-1926

22. Richard N. Hatter
1871-1926

THE FOLLOWING GRAVES ARE IN AN IRON FENCE ENCLOSURE

23. David H. Williams M.D.
Oct. 25, 1827
Feb. 3, 1907

24. Eugenia Floride Williams
b. Hopewells Green Co., Ala., (on) Feb. 4th, 1832
d. Gainesville (Ala.) March 2, 1910

25. Clarence Williams
b. Feb. 6, d. Dec 17th 1865
2nd son of Dr. D.H. & E.F. Williams

26. Little Benji and Little Bessie (no dates)

27. Aquilla D. Hutton M.D.
 b. April 8, 1805 Abbeville District S.C.
 d. Dec 6th 1852 Greene Co., Ala.
28. Mrs. Elizabeth H. Hutton
 b. July 22, 1813 Edgefield District S.C.
 married Feb 2, 1831 to Aquilla D. Hutton M.D.
 d. Feb. 1st, 1854
 NOTE: #28 was born a Tutt
29. Joseph A. Hutton
 born Oct. 15, 1833
 died from diarrhea on Oct. 10, 1850
30. Alonzo Hutton 2nd son of A.D. Hutton (no dates)
31. Cornelia Adorn, 2nd dau.(???)
 b. April 18, 1838
 d. Sept 1, 1842 of congestive fever
32. John R.
 son of G.M. & Elizabeth Trantham
 b. June 27, 1818
 d. Sept 19, 1826
33. Frances Wilkes 34. Mary Wilkes
 b. 1768 d. 1834 age 66 d. 1843 age 64 (b. ca. 1768)
35. Our Emmett, son of R.F. & M.A. Stuart
 age 5 (no dates)
36. Martha Dirrut 37. James Francis
 dau. of M.T. Greer son of J. & M.T. Greer
 aged 2 (no dates) aged 2 (no dates)
38. Wm. H.H. Stone,
 Native of Greenville Dist. S.C.
 Son of Banister Stone
 b. March 13, 1814
 d. July 14th 1835 in 22nd year
39. Alexander Thompson
 Native of S.C.
 b. Feb. 6, 1774
 d. Oct. 18, 1848
40. Elete Ann, wife of Wm. F. Bell & dau. of Andrew & Sophie
 Brownlee born July 10th 1830 in Lowndes Co., Miss.
 died September 29th, 1850 (1850 census shows name as
 Alettia).
41. Sophia Brownlee, wife of Andrew Brownlee
 b. 1810 d. 1849

42. William S. Brownlee, son of Andrew & Sophia Brownlee
b. 1839 d. 1849

43. MRS. MARY KIRKLAND
d. March 26, 1844 aged 70 yrs, 6 mo. 4 days

44. Elizabeth B., consort of Dr. Burrell Huggins, dau. of
Issac & Mary Kirkland (No dates)

45. AMOS TIMS
born Aug. 31, 1771 Chester District S.C.
died Dec. 29th, 1867 Pickens Co.

46. Mary Finns, dau. of Thomas L. & Elly Cabeen
b. Aug. 1777 d. Nov. 29, 1867

47. Robert Craig 48. Catherine Craig, wife of Robert
b. June 28, 1800 Craig b. Feb. 18, 1797
d. Oct 18, 1860 d. July 8, 1856

(NOTE: See Comments at end of this document relating to the
two above # 47 & # 48).

49. Cornelia Jane Craig, dau of Robert & Catherine Craig
b. Nov 23, 1829 d. Oct 23, 1831

50. James Newton Craig, son of R & C.C. Craig
b. May 24, 1837 d. Oct. 13th, 1841

51. Augusta Dwan Craig, dau. of Robert & Catherine Craig
b. June 1, 1834 d. Sept. 20th, 1842

52. Marcellus Octavius Craig, son of Robert & Catherine Craig
b. March 19, 1832
d. Sept. 1, 1842

53. General Joseph Hutton (NOTE: He married Nancy Calhoun,
1st cousin of statesman John C. Calhoun & consort of Gen.
Joseph Hutton, died after a few days illness with congestive
fever at age 67). This statement by Mrs. Marshall is only a
part of the tombstone information. Also the grave of Nancy
Agnes Calhoun, daughter of William & Agnes Long Calhoun is at
the foot of her husband. In 1978, my husband and I found her
headstone under 8 inches of silt and debris. Today it rest
beside her husbands headstone. His tomb reads as follows:
"Scared to the memory of General Joseph Hutton, who departed
this life after a few days of illness from Cholera Morbus on
the 30th of August 1823 aged 53 yrs, 8 months and 2 days. He
immigrated from SOUTH CAROLINA ABBEVILLE DISTRICT to this
State in April 1822. He was for several prior to his death an
exemplary member of the Presbyterian Church Vale! Vale!"

54. Her Tombstone reads as follows:

"Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Nancy, Consort of Gen'l. Joseph Hutton, who departed this life after a few days of illness of congestive fever on the 5th of September 1840, aged 67 years & 8 days. She was for many years before her death, an exemplary member of the Presbyterian Church.

How Blest the righteous when the die
When sinless a weary soul to rest
How mildly beam the closing eyes
How gently heaves the expiring breast."

55. "Mary H. Tilman, wife of Dr. D.W. Tilman
born April 1800, died May 30th 1824 aged 24 years
Rest sweet Mother, Jesus took thee. We Shall greet thee
here no more. He sent an Angel to waft thee greet thee
here no more. He sent an Angel to waft thee To a
brighter, better shore."

NOTE: She was sister of Joseph Hutton

56. "In memory of Dan W. Tilman, husband of Melissa Tilamn,
born Union District S.C. on July 19, 1800 and departed
this life November 10th 1830.

Thou art at rest where storms can vex no more
When shall we meet again and kiss away
The tears of joy in one eternal day."

57. Aquilla H. Coleman son of Charles H & Priscilla A.
Coleman **

b. Sept. 8, 1831 d. Dec 7, 1857

NOTE ** maiden name was Hutton

58. Priscilla Ann, wife of Charles H. Coleman

b. Abbeville District S.C. Dec 27th 1809

d. Dec. 11th 1863 in Green Co.

NOTE: Maiden name was Hutton

59. Augustus Coleman son of Chas. H & Priscilla
(no other data on marker)

60. Harveys White
(no other data on marker)

61. Laura A.E. White
(no other data)

NOTE by Historical Society: She was John White's mother. John White owned old Will Hardy Home

62. Della Street 63. Julia Ann Street
b. Sept 6, 1796 b. Jan. 22, 1850
d. March 22, 1851 d. July 15, 1850

64. William B. Wills, erected by his wife E.M. W.

d. June 20, 1840 of gunshot wounds.
NOTE by Historical Society: Oral Will

65. William Rutledge
b. Aug. 7, 1843 aged 4 yrs 2 mo. (born ca. 1839)

66. Issac Rutledge
(b. ca. 1811)

67. Mary Kirkland 68. Mattie Kirkland
(no other data on either of above)

The following copied exactly as given by Historical Society

69. James Wills (Forkland) 32 KY b. about 1818 b. 1840 (**son
James)

(Aunt Laura Rutledge born ca.1846)
(4 in 1850) NOTE BY ROBERT HILL: THIS IS NOT CLEAR???

70. William Bryan son of T. & Catherine C. Bryan
1827-1830

71. W. L. Brown
1802-1821

72. Bryant Bizzelle, son of James & Patience Bizzelle
b. Duplin Co., N.C. Apr. 26, 1829
d. in Sumter Feb. 26, 1851 age 21 yrs 10 mo.

73. Elizabeth Bizzelle dau. of James & Patience Bizzelle
b. 1827 d. 1848.

74. James Bizzelle
1802-1844

75. Elisha Bizzelle 76. James G. George
1820-1842 d. Feb. 10th 1831 age 59 yrs
(b. ca 1772)

77. Nancy Wilmouth, dau. of James G. & Permele E. George
b. Aug. 5, 1840
d. Feb. 26, 1845

78. William Bryan son of Wm. T. & Catherine C. Bryan
b. Nov. 6, 1827
d. Jan. 27th, 1830

79. James C., son of James George & Permele Hutton
b. Jan. 16, 1842
d. Sept. 7, 1846

REFERENCE TO # 47 & #48 as noted by Green County Historical
Society: Catherine C. Hutton married William T. Bryan then
she married Robert Craig in 1839. (Wm. T. Bryan b. S.C. 1799

d. Aug. 1827. Stokes Cemetery in Green Co., Ala. Came to
Green County 1820).

end of data