

Greenlawn Cemetery Survey  
Great Falls, South Carolina  
February 21, 1998 - March 16, 1998

By  
Aileen Greer Norris  
With annotations from obituaries and family history files  
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The purpose of this work is that it be used as a research tool for genealogist. Also to preserve the history of the cemetery. There has been no previous written survey, there are no records of this cemetery before 1966 when Dantzler funeral home opened in Great Falls.

If errors have occurred, the writer apologizes. They are not made intentionally. If you have an update, which you would like to be included, in the addendum which will be written at a later date, please send the information to, Mrs. Aileen G. Norris, P. O. Box 138, Liberty Hill, South Carolina 29074-0138. If you have knowledge of unmarked graves either of the names, dates or the locations of such graves, please forward that information to this writer.

There were many citizens who stopped to visit with me during this survey, I thank each of you for your interest and the invaluable information you supplied.

Copies of this work will be donated to Dantzler - Baker Funeral Home Great Falls.  
Great Falls Branch of the Chester County Public Library  
Chester District Genealogical Society, Richburg, South Carolina  
Catawba Wateree Genealogical Society, a Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society, located in the Archives and Museum in Camden, South Carolina.  
USGenWeb Cemetery Project, Susan Wilson County Coordinator, Chester County, SC

The Greenlawn Cemetery is located on U S Highway 21, at the intersection with Underwood Avenue in Great Falls, South Carolina. This cemetery was begun after the Republic Cotton Mill Company started the town around early 1910. The Mill Company owned everything. In the beginning when there was a death, the Mill Company gave a two grave plot to the family. If a larger plot was needed it could be arranged. There was no funeral home in Great Falls until 1966 when Dantzler Funeral Home opened. Mr. Dick Dantzler was the undertaker at that time. It was his young prodigy, Mr. James Baker who studied to become a licensed undertaker and later became his partner, thus the name Dantzler-Baker of today. Mrs. Barbara Baker tells this writer that there are no written records of the cemetery before 1966.

Many of the younger folk around Great Falls seem amazed that the town is only eighty-eight years old. This area is so full of history, yet so much has been lost. It is my hope that this survey will help preserve our history. There is much to be learned just from this survey alone. One lesson for me was just how short life truly is and how very precious. Looking at the dates of births and deaths really will bring home

this fact. Life is so short, we have much to accomplish, so much work left to be done. I for one don't want to waist even one more day.

From older citizens of Great Falls I have been told: "When there was a death, neighbors helped dig the grave. A mid-wife prepared the body for burial, the casket was purchased at the Company Store down town." Mr. Clarence Baker who lived on Circle Street in Great Falls for most of his life told me that he use to help dig graves. They were digging a grave in the old part of the cemetery, the area nearest the funeral home, when the grave kept filling with water. That is when they were no longer allowed to dig graves in that area. Too much water just under ground. Mrs. Minnie Baker use to prepare the bodies of children for burial. I have not learned of the other mid-wives although there were many. If you know of such stories please share them with this writer.

There are many unmarked graves in Greenlawn. My best guess is over three hundred. If you know the names and locations of these graves please inform me. Since this survey was completed, I have learned of the identity and location of five, possibly six of these unmarked graves. These are noted in the survey.

I hope that some organization such as a Boy Scout troop or other civic group will adopt the cemetery as a project. There is a need for up keep, just simple maintenance, such as trimming of grass around markers which will not occur because some families have either died out or moved away. Some older family plots were planted with shrubs which, left unattended simply took over head stones. These need trimming, there is no perpetual care in this cemetery. The mill company owned the cemetery originally, then turned it over to the town. The town hires someone to cut the grass but true perpetual care is not done. Will you please adopt the unattended graves around those of your loved ones and help care for them? There are baby graves, which were left unattended when the families disappeared from this area over fifty years ago. Some markers stand sunken in water, others have washed out from underneath and need to be filled in with sand or dirt. One Saturday a month for just a few hours would spruce up this cemetery. Please help. Other towns have had Eagle Scout status earned by working the old cemeteries. One North Carolina teenager did a cemetery survey as part of her exit exam for high school. Many possibilities here. Your help is needed. Please honor and remember those who came before us.

19. BAKER: Mary N. Baker - July 15, 1911 - Mar 1, 1984. (N = Neely, she was the wife of Clarence W. Baker, Mother of Wonzle, Betty Jean, Menthlee, Brenda Ann, an infant boy and Jimmy.)  
"In Loving Memory". Mary and Clarence on same marker.
20. BAKER: Clarence W. Baker - Oct 14, 1910 - (W = William.) Still living in March 1998.
21. BAKER: Brenda Ann Baker - Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Baker -  
Aug 17, 1940 - Mar 13, 1941. Foot marker "B.A.B".
  
361. NEELY: James E. Neely - World War II - US Navy - Feb 6, 1909 - May 16, 1992. This foot marker is with the large Neely family marker along with the next two foot markers.
362. NEELY: Cora Shaw Neely - July 20, 1888 - Aug 14, 1969.  
(Wife of William F., Mother of James E. Neely).
363. NEELY: William F. Neely - May 25, 1884 - Jan 18, 1946.