

Shelby County Herald 7, May 1924

We happened to be out in the country again last Sunday and as usual we attended services at old Bacon Chapel. Arriving a little early we had some time to look around and see what we could find of interest out in the cemetery, Now there are not many folks that would look in such a place for something interesting,. In fact tho there is much of interest there if you only know what to look for. What interested us most and especially was the old tombstones. The good neighbors of our deceased friend, George Stone, were over in the new cemetery digging a grave for his corpse which was to be interred that evening, and this was probably the cause of our idea and reminiscent mood. That portion of the cemetery lying just south of the church was the original burying ground of the early pioneers, and many of them are there. In casting around for the dates of some of the older ones we knew personally. And by history, we found quite a few that were buried there long before we were born but whose history we learned from our father, and other old and early settlers and their names are and were very familiar and were very familiar to us and to others. The first church was located just in the southwest corner of this part of the old cemetery and it was here that the first bodies were placed and while the slabs that marks the graves of many stand thick there are scores of unmarked graves and only a slight rise in the earth or a depression shows where some early pioneer was laid to rest. Among those still marked we found the following, which by no means is a full account, but will serve to show the early date of this historic old chapel. We will only in a few of whom were born in the eighteenth century or in between seventeen and eighteen hundred, which to us means a long time ago: Prettyman Blizzard, 1869; Mary J. Wailes, Aug.30, 1873; James Tarbet, 1874; Levina Barr, Oct. 24, 1851; Rebecca Mitchell. Wife of Thos.Mitchell, Sept. 13, 1859, 82 years old; Armstrong Carothers, 1858; Edmund Christian, (We spell names as given on the stones) Aug. 1845; Squire Barton, May 14, 1868; Daniel Barton, 1865, he being shot as a prisoner during the Civil War, and near the close; Andrew McBroom, our grandfather; April 25, 1870; Margaret, his wife, Jan. 26, 1865; Asbury M Byrum, Sept. 30, 1862; Joseph Carroll, another grandfather of the writer, Nov29, 1872, John B. Duncan1858, Elenora Duncan 1860, Mary Duncan 1859, Thomas H. Duncan 1856. They were children of John S. Duncan, as given on marker; Charles Shumaker, March 29, 1862, born in 1800; John Winston, March 27, 1869; Eldon Winston, Dec. 13, 1859; Sarah Morris, wife of Lacy Morris, born Feb. 12 1812, died Feb. 7, 1861; Wm. Boyd, 1874; Robert Raplee, 1872; Asbury Morris, 1879; Sally Lowman, wife of W.O. Lowman, Sept. 21, 1869. There are many but this is a representative list of the older ones. Some of them, as we said before, were born many years before. Some of the older pioneers were buried in private cemeteries on the farms where they lived. A great many of them exist, one on the old Minick farm west of the Chapel, some at the old Smith burying ground east of Walkersville, some in the Woods cemetery west of the above place and still others at the old Coard grounds on Salt River above Walkersville. These are just a few of those old hardy pioneers that blazed the trail and laid the foundation of the civilization which we as their lineal descendants enjoy today. Like the moving picture of today, they were born, they lived, they played their part on the screen of life and passed off., while others took their place. And we wondered as we read and wrote the above facts, that if today they could come back to life and see their posterity they would be proud or disappointed. Some of the older settlers including John S. Duncan, Sanford Drain, Jacksons and Spicers, we could find no markers and we judge they were buried elsewhere, but this we know, that when He appears we shall be with Him, we will all be fathered from the four corners of the earth where we shall dwell together, for the Lord is the maker of them all.