

Dutch Mills Cemetery

Its History and People

HISTORY & TRADITIONS OF THE DUTCH MILLS CEMETERY

Late 1850's to 2019

By Jerry Leach

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*In memory of my mother, Ruth Elsie McCarty Leach,
who dearly loved the Dutch Mills Cemetery*

TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 33 WEST.

Scale 2 inches to the Mile.

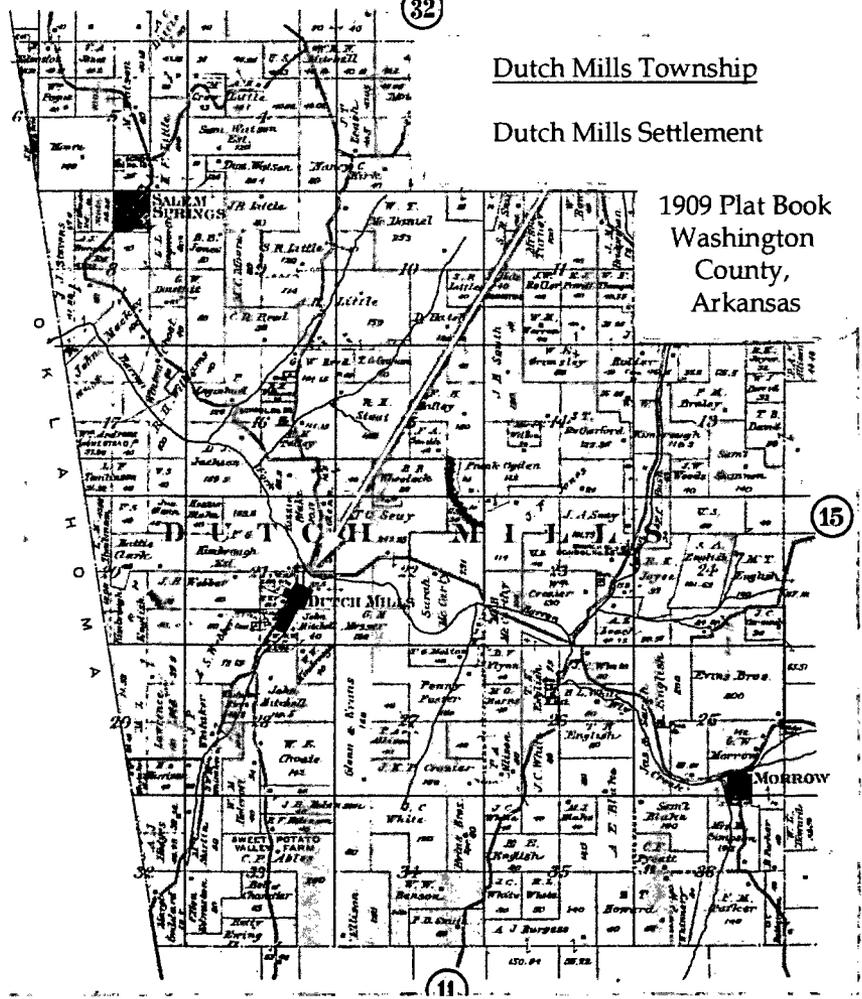
of the 5th Principal Meridian

32

Dutch Mills Township

Dutch Mills Settlement

1909 Plat Book
Washington
County,
Arkansas



OLD HERMANNSBURG & DUTCH MILLS

In the year of 1850, a German immigrant by the name of Johann Hermann arrived in Washington County, Arkansas. After working about a year for Herman Freyschlag in his mill near Clear Creek, Johann purchased 160 acres including an unfinished water-powered mill near where Whitaker Spring flows in to Barren Fork Creek and settled in what is now known as Dutch Mills. He was joined by his brother, Karl in 1853. That same year, Johann and Karl established a Post Office with the name, Hermannsburg.

During their separate travels to Northwest Arkansas, they both spent time near Gray's Summit, Missouri where they met the Wilhelmi family, Rev. & Mrs. Wilhelmi plus their two lovely daughters, Nanni & Lina. As the two men were seeking wives, Johann married Nanni and Karl married Lina while on their way to Arkansas. In 1855, Rev. Wilhelm Wilhelmi, his son Julius and wife Luise also came to live in Hermannsburg.

The story about "The Hermanns of old Hermannsburg" is preserved in W. J. Lemke's journal [referenced below]. Their writings gave the impression they were happy, prospering and living in pure paradise up until the beginning of the Civil War on April 12, 1861. Arkansas seceded from the Union on May 6, 1861 and the Hermannsburg paradise started falling apart. Depredations by both Southern and Northern troops, bushwhackers, and renegade Indians made it impossible to remain neutral. The Hermann's German colony support was with the Union, and family members were fearful for their lives. The settlement soon thereafter became a Civil War casualty.

In December 1862 on the heels of the Battle of Prairie Grove, a group of 19, including 11 children, packed up what few belongings they could and left Hermannsburg for the safety of

Union lines and headed north to Missouri. They left behind the graves of two family members named below, whose graves are believed to be the first in this cemetery. They also left behind legends of buried gold that are still topics of conversation today. Six years after the end of the Civil War, on October 10, 1871, Hermannsburg was renamed Dutch Mills.

This fascinating story of early history in the area is well documented in "The Hermanns of Old Hermannsburg," a journal by W. J. Lemke originally published in 1965 by the Washington County Historical Society's quarterly journal Flashback (still available - 2019). ["Dutch" is a corruption of the German word Deutsch, which refers to the German language.]



EARLIEST KNOWN GRAVES

The Dutch Mills Cemetery is located behind the Liberty Baptist Church in Dutch Mills. The cemetery dates back to the late 1850's. The earliest graves in the Dutch Mills Cemetery are believed to be two members of the Hermann family, Rev. Wilhelm Wilhelmi and his daughter-in-law, Aunt Luise Wilhelmi. It was noted in "The Hermanns of Old Hermannsburg" article that these were the first deaths in the settlement and they were "buried in the forest", probably on Hermann's property behind the house that still stands today (2019).

Mr. Ausban Freeman told me, Jerry Leach, that my mother, Ruth Leach, showed him a large flat stone in the cemetery that marks the location of these two graves. She told Mr. Freeman that the two Wilhelmi family members were first buried in an area behind the Hermann's house and then later moved to the present cemetery property where it was thought to be less rocky. It too is plenty rocky, but a more beautiful setting for the cemetery could

not have been found. Mr. Freeman showed me this stone marking the location of the Wilhelmi graves.

A single permanent grave stone with the inscription below was placed near the stone marker in 1994. Mr. Frederick Hermann of St. Louis, Missouri was instrumental in having the two graves marked.



REV. WILHELM WILHELMI
Jan. 27, 1790 - Oct. 7, 1861
Father of Nani and Lina
Who Married Brothers
Johann and Karl Herman
Founders of Hermannsburg

LOUISE LANDFRIED WILHELMI
Died about 1860
Wife of Julies Wilhelmi, Who Was
the Son of Rev. Wilhelmi

Other family members buried in Washington, Missouri



Dates of the earliest graves are in question. Are the Wilhelmi 1860/61 graves really the first burials in the cemetery? A single tall, four-sided Shields grave marker shows earlier death dates than the Wilhelmi's. Three of the four Shields family members named on the stone died in 1857 within a span of eight days, and the fourth died in 1905. It could be that the grave stone is for the 1905 burial, and included names of the earlier three as a memorial.

Or possibly the remains of the three may have been moved from a family burial site, as was the case for five

members of the English family, the earliest in this case being 1858 for Samuel English.

The second earliest recorded grave, after the Wilhelmi's, is that of Elizabeth Austell Kimbrough who died on January 18, 1874. Her grave is marked by what appears to be an original monument.



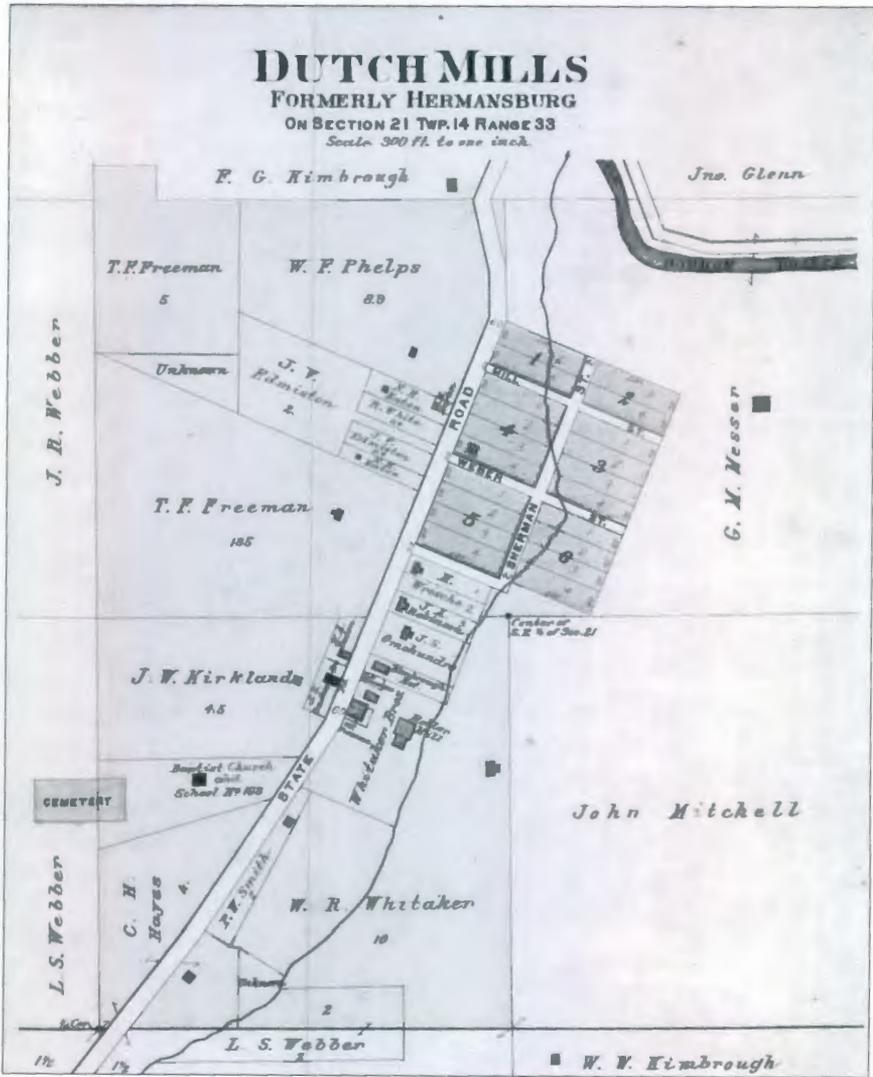


During the fourteen year span after the burial of Louise Wilhelmi around 1860, there were surely more burials in this cemetery, although no monuments remain from this period. Graves are marked with field stones throughout the older section of the cemetery for which no records exist. Unfortunately some stone markers have disappeared over the years. The current listing of cemetery burials includes approximately 43 names of persons buried in the cemetery during the 1800's. There may be several more burials in the 1800s that remain unknown.

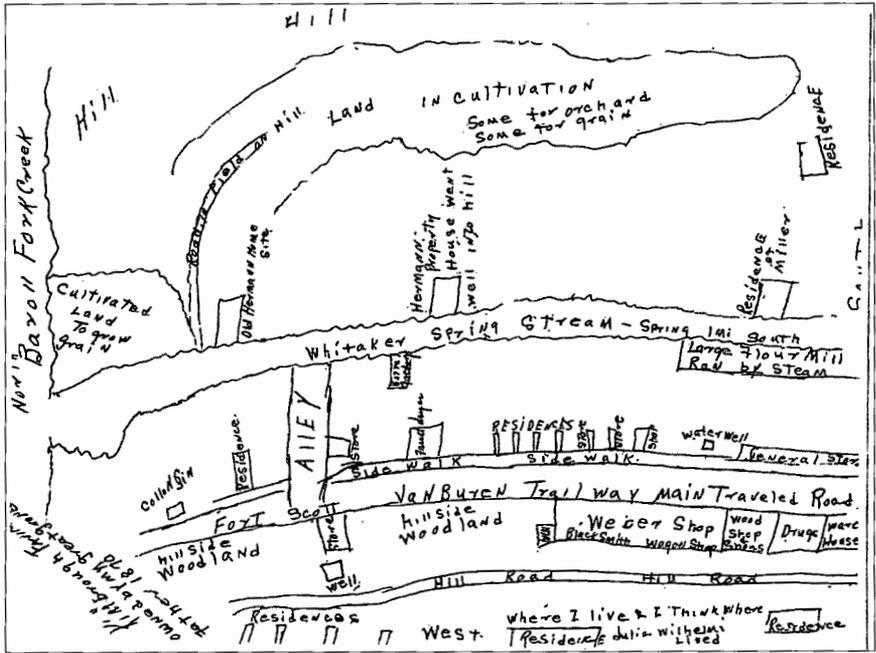
Ms. Lizzie Beatrice Weber recounted a story she remembered about a ten-year-old girl who died of diphtheria. No other cemetery would allow her burial due to fear of this highly contagious disease that was a major cause of illness and death among children at that time. According to Ms. Lizzie, the girl was buried in this cemetery just inside the front gate there at the time. She could not remember the year or the girl's name and unfortunately the grave is unmarked.



Map of the Dutch Mills town plat
Washington County Plat Book 1909



Map created by Ruth Leach
1964



Map shows a "Large Flour Mill" next to the stream and a "Weber Blacksmith and Wagon Shop" on the "Fort Scott to Van Buren Trailway Main Traveled Road." Map orientation faces east.



LAND DONATIONS

A plot of land that eventually became the site of Dutch Mills Cemetery began as a public burial ground around the year 1860. At that time the land may have been owned by members of the Hermann and/or Wilhelmi family. The date of arrival of the

Weber family in this area is not known, but records show that Nicholas Weber purchased land from John H. Hermann as early as 1871. Nicholas Weber died at Dutch Mills in 1881 leaving his widow Elizabeth and six children, including son Lewis S. Weber. There is no record of Nicholas or his wife Elizabeth Weber being buried in the Dutch Mills Cemetery. That is a possibility but their place of burial is unknown.

The earliest known Weber burial in the Dutch Mills Cemetery is that of Allie Belle Weber, wife of Lewis Samuel Weber, who died in 1902. Lewis Samuel Weber died October 8, 1931. The graves of Lewis Samuel Weber, Allie Belle Weber and Clayton Weber (who died at age eight years) are all enclosed by a rock border in the Weber family plot area. There are no monuments for these three graves. In the same area is another rock border enclosing the otherwise unmarked graves of John Robert Weber who died June 3, 1907, and Mary Gertrude Weber (date of death unknown).

The most recent Weber burials in the cemetery are those of Lizzie Beatrice Hendrix Weber and Patricia Faye Weber. Ms. Lizzie died February 25, 2011 at the age of 98, one month short of her 99th birthday. Her husband, Lewis Fount Weber, son of Lewis S. Weber, lived in the Weber house that was located at the foot of the mountain west of the cemetery until age thirteen when he moved to Stilwell, Oklahoma. According to Lizzie, his father had a flour mill on Whitaker Spring in Dutch Mills. Lewis F. Weber's sister was Lizzie Weber Johnson, wife of Austin Johnson who ran a grocery business in Dutch Mills and then in Stilwell into the 1950s. Patricia Faye Weber died December 19, 2012 at the age of 72.

The land which included the site of the cemetery went to Nicholas Weber's heirs and was eventually owned by his son, Lewis S. Weber, who purchased the property left to his siblings. This land

was apparently used as a public burying ground over seventy years before being formerly designated for that purpose.

A warranty deed filed and recorded in 1923 records the sale of about 217 acres by L. S. Weber to S. E. Self for a price of \$8,000. In the legal description of this deed it is stated: "*Sec 21 less about 3 acres on east end of said tract now used for Cemetary (sic) hereby reserved.*" Thus, thanks to the copies of this information provided by Maurice and Ruth Loftin, it was confirmed that Lewis S. Weber set aside about 3 acres of land for a public burying ground, the Dutch Mills Cemetery.



Just outside the west end of the pavilion of the cemetery there is a granite marker shown above. **Basis for the "1932" date unknown. Were last two digits of 1923 accidentally reversed?*

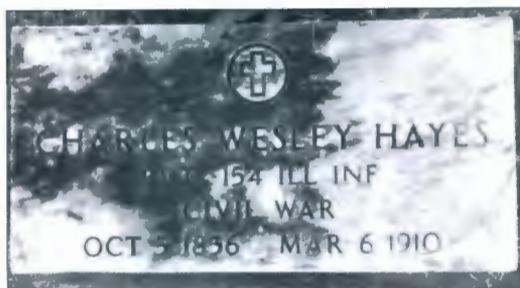
Going by the 1932 date, more than 37 years passed before any additional land was added to the cemetery. In 1969 a strip of land on the west end of the cemetery was donated by Ausban & Ruby Freeman. Through their generosity, there was room for four additional rows (26-29) plus a wide driveway for access. This area proved to be desirable and all but a single plot in these four rows are now filled or reserved. The Freeman family moved here in the

early 1940's, bought the Weber farm, and finished raising their family of six children living in the Weber house located west of the cemetery. Mr. Freeman died in 1994 and his wife Ruby died in 1997; both are buried in the cemetery in their family plot area. Paul and Glenna Freeman Daniels were the last occupants of the landmark Weber house where they owned and operated a farm and chicken business. In June of 2002, Paul and Glenna donated additional land to the south side of the cemetery. This provided a nice addition to the cemetery and was greatly appreciated. Paul and Glenna moved to Lincoln in 2002 and the Weber house remained vacant until recently torn down. Paul died in 2010 and is buried in the Freeman family plot area of the cemetery.



**KNOWN CIVIL WAR VETERANS
BURIED IN THE CEMETERY**

- Charles Wesley Hayes 10/05/1836 - 03/06/1910
Pvt., Company F & S, 13th Regiment, Tennessee Infantry,
Confederate States of America
- William H. Harrison 10/17/1841 - 01/01/1915
Cpl., Company K, 23rd Mounted Infantry,
Confederate States of America
- Professor Martin Luther Lawrence 01/03/1837 - 01/01/1914
New York Infantry, Union Army
- Timothy McCarty 11/25/1830 - 07/17/1886
3rd Lt., 2nd Cherokee Regiment Mounted Volunteers,
Confederate States of America



CEREMONY MARKING CONFEDERATE SOLDIER GRAVES

During the summer of 1996, two very special ceremonies were performed in different cemeteries on the same day by the Sons of Confederate Veterans of NW Arkansas marking the graves of two Confederate soldiers. Ten men were in full uniform and eight ladies and small girl in the procession wore period dresses.



The first ceremony was at the Dutch Mills Cemetery honoring Lt. Timothy McCarty, who served in the 2nd Cherokee Regiment and died some twenty years later in 1886. After setting the grave stone for Lt. McCarty, an impressive ceremony was conducted, concluding with a seven-gun salute. Timothy McCarty reportedly died from an accident that occurred about 21 years after the war while storing hay in his barn on the McCarty place. His widow Sarah McCarty later made trips alone by horseback every three months to Fort Smith to collect pension payments.

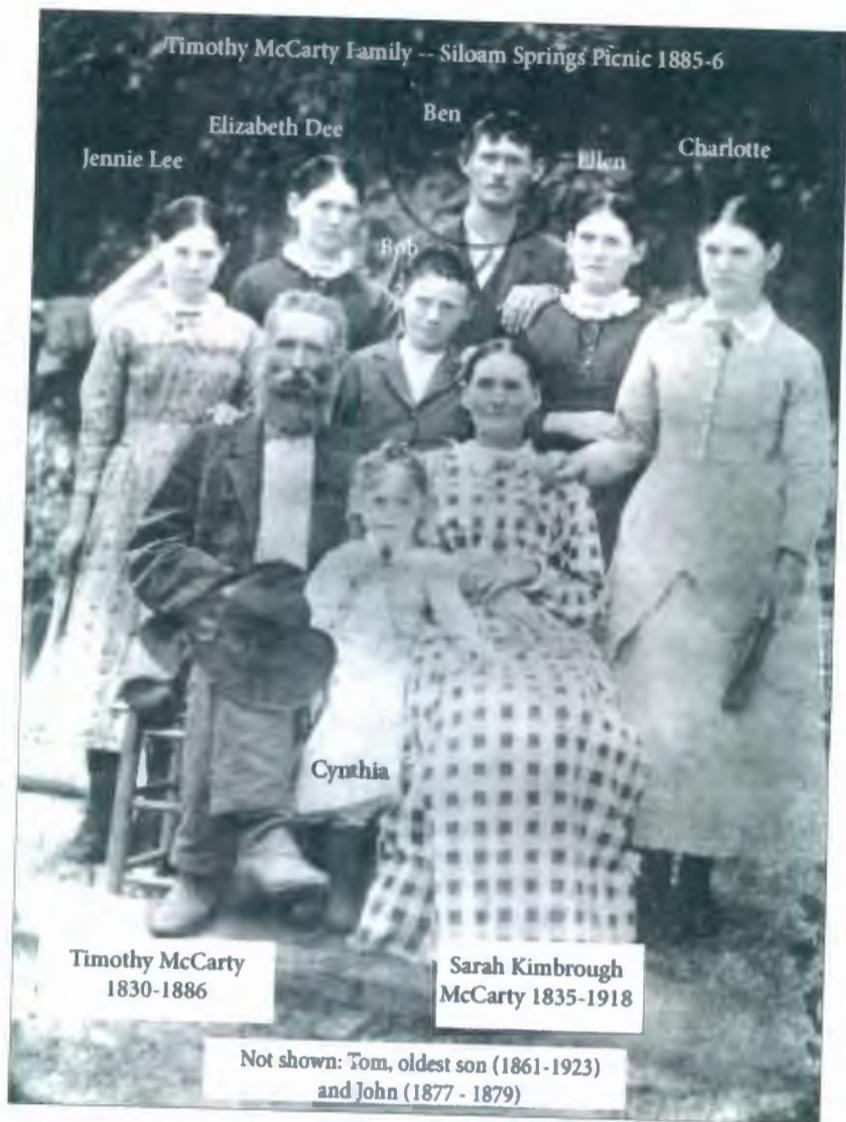


The group then traveled about four miles east to the Bethesda Cemetery on Bush Valley Road to honor Capt. William H. Shannon with a similar ceremony. It should be noted that Lt. McCarty served in the 2nd Cherokee Regiment C.S.A. under the command of Capt. Shannon, and they reportedly were close friends. Capt. Shannon and wife Sarah had a farm in the Cane Hill area. Capt. Shannon died of pneumonia in the winter of 1878 near Summers, Arkansas while returning from a trip by wagon into Oklahoma.

These two military service gravestones are only part of a large number provided for graves of Confederate veterans by Major James E. "Gene" Gibson, a highly decorated veteran of the WWII D-Day Invasion. His personal goal was to mark all the Confederate veterans' graves in Northwest Arkansas. He died in 2009 and is interred in Ganderville Cemetery.



McCarty Family





L-R: Ruth McCarty, Sarah McCarty (seated)
 Jennie McCarty. Taken in front of the
 McCarty House.



Ben
 McCarty

Unknown

Sarah
 McCarty

Jennie
 McCarty
 Patterson

Oscar
 Patterson

Ruth McCarty
 about age 15



DECORATION DAY

Decoration Day grew from a Southern tradition started shortly after the Civil War to honor the soldiers who served in the war by decorating their graves with flowers. Decoration Day at the Dutch Mills Cemetery is observed annually on the third Sunday of May. This popular and anticipated occasion provides an opportunity for decorating graves as well as a chance to visit with old friends. Some folks come on Friday or Saturday of that weekend since they may wish to attend decorations at other cemeteries held on the same day.

Although Mother's Day fell on the previous Sunday, a Decoration Day tradition that faded over the years was wearing a flower on your lapel in honor of your mother, a white flower if no longer living and a red flower if still living. Besides visiting with old friends and family members, another favorite tradition was pot luck "Dinner on the Ground." In years past, dinner was spread just outside the cemetery under the shade trees. The food was placed on tables made from planks supported on saw horses. These days the dinner is hosted by the Liberty Baptist Church and held inside the church facility, but is still enjoyed as much as ever!

Decoration Day circa 1940, Women and Men Segregated





Some families have established their own traditions for this event as well. The procession of the Bailey Family members is watched for by others in attendance. All of the family members gather in the parking area and walk together to their family plot area carrying flowers to be placed on the graves of their loved ones.



The majority of donations given for upkeep of the cemetery are received on Decoration Day. Folks have been generous in past years and donations and plot fees have been sufficient to cover expenses. It is important that this tradition continues to cover the cost of keeping the cemetery maintained and beautiful. Donations are very much needed and appreciated!



CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CEMETERY

Comments about how pretty the cemetery looks and how well it is being maintained are often heard. Since around the year 2000, credit for the Cemetery's pristine appearance belongs to the Richard & Tammy Hale family. Sawyer Hale now does most of the mowing and weed-eating. The Cemetery has never been better cared for and the efforts of the Hale family are much appreciated by many folks. The cemetery is kept looking nice year around, but especially so during Decoration weekend! Prior to the Hale family, Russell Carlton of Lincoln had the mowing contract for a number of years. Much earlier in the 1950s and '60s, cemetery caretaker Charles Bailey had multiple responsibilities in addition to keeping the grass mowed. (See Ken Bailey's story.)

In times before power mowers and weed eaters, many hard hours of hand labor was expended to care for the Cemetery, even though the grave area was somewhat smaller back then. Carl Whitaker (1924-2006) had a love for the Dutch Mills Cemetery that probably started in his early years and kept growing as long as he lived. His wife, Helen, said often times Carl would just out of the blue say "I think I'll go down to the cemetery for a while." And that was where Carl would be for the next several hours.

During Carl's teenage years he and a friend, probably Howard Baker, had a summer job in the late 1930's to early 1940's of keeping the cemetery mowed and trimmed. The Cemetery owned a hand-pushed reel mower that was stored at Arthur and Cynthia Patterson's home (the McCarty place), a distance of nearly 2 miles from the cemetery. The boys walked there from home to get the mower, pushed it to the cemetery, mowed the grass, then pushed it back to Patterson's for safe keeping, and then walked back home. That's about eight miles walking, not counting the mowing. The job also included clipping around the head stones with hand

clippers. Carl said that for all of this hard work and walking, they each got paid fifty cents. Those were the good old days!

A STORY BY KEN BAILEY

"In the 1950's and 1960's, Charles R. Bailey was caretaker of the cemetery. He was responsible for receiving donations for the cemetery and burial plots, measuring and marking new burial plots, and mowing grass and filling low spots as the new graves settled. He also sold monuments for Cotner Monuments in Fort Smith and would oversee their installation. In the mid 60's my dad, Charles Bailey, hired Danny Pinkerton and me, Kenny Bailey, to mow and fill graves. He needed the job done and we needed the work. My dad had used some of the cemetery money to buy a metal storage building from Montgomery Ward Company. My dad and I installed the building and then the single push mower owned by the cemetery could be stored there.



"When working at the cemetery, Danny and I would alternate from mowing to clipping grass around the headstones. This was before the time of motorized weed-eaters. We clipped grass while

on our knees using hand clippers. These had to be sharpened often with a flat file in order to clip with any speed. This all was a slow process and we were each paid 50 cents per hour. We used a wheel barrow to haul dirt from the northeast corner where excess dirt was stored for filling graves when they would sink. My dad made sure we were working and not sitting under the shade trees.

“Decoration Day has always been in May. Before starting the mowing for the season, we would remove the old plastic flowers so families could decorate with new flowers. I remember one time Danny got permission from his dad, Joe Pinkerton, to drive their new riding mower to the cemetery from their home about three miles south of Dutch Mills. That made the job go much faster, but there's more to the story. After we finished mowing, Danny headed home on a very slow-moving riding mower. When he passed the church he shifted the mower out of gear at the top of the hill. When he got to the bottom of the hill he was breaking the Dutch Mills speed limit by a lot. I think he rolled it as he tried to make the curve at the bottom of the hill. He never got to bring the rider back again.”

GRAVE DIGGING

In earlier times, graves were hard dug by local men of the area volunteering their time and effort when the need arose. During the 1940's and '50's Carl Whitaker and his father Tom, Charlie Jones, Oren Gardner, Jody Sparks and Frank Hodge are just some of the men in the community that provided this service on a regular basis for families of the deceased. It was tough digging and hard work. The cemetery, like most of the area, is very rocky with lots of limestone not far below the surface. Dynamite had to be used in digging many of the graves. It was common to hear the blasting during the grave digging down under the hill in Dutch Mills and beyond.

For the past several years grave openings have been done by the Luginbuel Funeral Home using their backhoe plus a jack hammer when needed instead of the dynamite. Before the days of backhoes and jack hammers, Lige Hall working for Luginbuel's, dug graves in this cemetery and others, sometimes single handedly and sometimes with helper Elbert McCracken.

LUGINBUEL FUNERAL HOME

Early history of the Luginbuel's funeral service business has close ties to Dutch Mills. In the 1890's, Charles Nobel Luginbuel sold caskets out of the Dutch Mills mercantile store where he worked. Then Charles' son Loyd and his brother, Reid, opened the Luginbuel Funeral Home in Lincoln in 1924, and also Prairie Grove in 1937. The Lincoln location was closed in 1993.

Luginbuel's have directed by far the majority of the Dutch Mills funerals and burial services since that time. Their help to families of the deceased has been extended in many ways down through the years and will always be remembered. Care is always taken to avoid damage when opening graves for both their services and for other funeral homes, and there is no telling how many leaning monuments they have righted.

Burial records and other information are available for not only the Dutch Mills Cemetery but many other cemeteries as well on the Luginbuel Funeral Home website (www.luginbuel.com). The web site also includes a genealogy section providing a convenient source of family history, plus the very interesting history of the Luginbuel Funeral Home.



CEMETERY MILESTONES

1860: Earliest known grave: Louise Landfried Wilhelmi

1923: Deed by Lewis Weber reserved about three acres already
being used by the cemetery

1969: Burlene Hilton, Minnie Alberty and Edith Taylor
documented all graves having tombstones. Up until that
time there was no recorded list of burials.

April 15, 1975: Dutch Mills Cemetery Association organized in
meeting at the Liberty Baptist Church. Trustees elected
were Carl Whitaker, F. L. Eversoll, and Roland Bailey.
Ernestine Jordan elected Sec/Treas, and Bobbie Pinkerton
Asst. Sec/Treas. Other attendees noted were Bill & Anna
Venable, Carter Starbird, Ausban Freeman, Hershel Baker,
and Virgil Seal.

April 21, 1975: Trust Agreement established by trustees F. L.
Eversoll, Carl Whitaker and Roland Bailey with the Bank
of Lincoln.

April 15, 1976: Trust Fund established at the Bank of Lincoln for
care of the Cemetery.

1977: South Section of Cemetery established. First burial in the
south section was Brett Wayne Bailey.

1983: Anna Venable updated the list of burials.

1985: Floy Baker and Carl Whitaker worked together to update
the list of burials and develop a hand drawn chart of grave
locations on poster board. This is the first known layout of

the cemetery burial plots. This chart represents many hours of dedicated effort and has been preserved.

Sep 14, 1985: Updated burial list typed by Ernestine Jordan and printed by Luginbuel Funeral Home.



July 1989: Burial plot fee established at \$100; permanent marker required.

June 1993: Layout of grave plots put on computer spreadsheet by Jerry Leach.

April 28, 1994: Marker placed at site of first graves in the cemetery (Rev. Wilhelm Wilhelmi and Louise Landfried Wilhelmi)

1996: Pavilion building erected. Sign on building reads:

"This Building Dedicated in Memory of Charles & Audrey Bailey, By Kenny Bailey, 1996

- Materials donated by Ken Bailey
- Pavilion erected by James & Marilyn Shipman
- Entrance Rock Wall later built by Steve Pinkerton"

1996: Ceremony by Sons of Confederate Veterans of NW Arkansas placing stone marker at grave of Lt. Timothy McCarty

May 1998: East (front) pipe fence, approximately 383 feet, with two vehicle gates. Built by Jimmy Icenogle.

May 16, 1999: Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws prepared by Larry Snodgrass and adopted. Incorporators: Floy Baker, Jerry Leach, Danny Pinkerton & Gary Walker.

April 30, 1999: Dutch Mills Cemetery Association, Inc. incorporated as a non-profit corporation.

Mar 25, 2000: Dutch Mills Cemetery Association became Dutch Mills Cemetery Association, Inc.

April 2000: Cemetery maintenance contract awarded to Richard Hale.

Aug 2000: Pipe & Cable fence, 3 sides, approximately 1100 ft. Built by Corey Prater.

April 2003: Plot locator cabinet built and installed in pavilion by Grady Whiteley.

March 2005: After faithfully serving as Sec/Treas for 27 years, Floy Baker nominated Sharon Swain who was elected to succeed her as Sec/Treas. Sharon is still serving now in her 14th year. The diligent efforts of Ernestine, Floy, Sharon and others who served in this position are much appreciated.

April 2005: Bylaws amended changing number of directors from six (6) to ten (10).

April 2008: The metal Montgomery Ward storage building was replaced with a new building and bench seats installed in the pavilion. The work was done by Leroy Beckcom.

June 2010: Burial plot fee increased to \$150.

Mar 2012: Cremains rules established.

October 2013: Security light installed.

April 2014: Monuments cleaned and broken monuments repaired by Alvin Derby and crew.

June 2017: Burial plot fee increased to \$250.

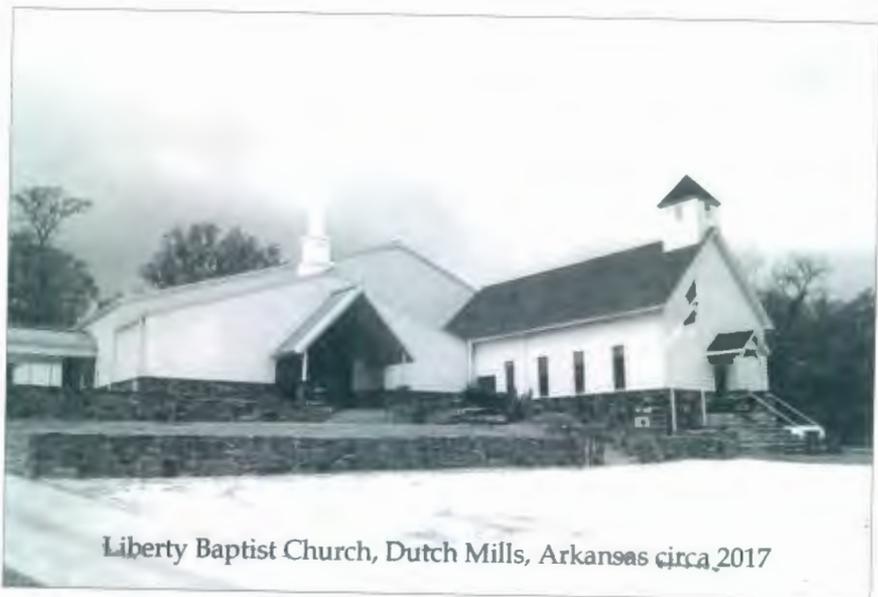
GENERAL CEMETERY INFORMATION

Number of known graves: 627 (617 named plus 10 remaining stone markers).

Number of Masons: 26 (Names on file)

Approximate size of fenced area: 383 ft x 362 ft = 3.18 acres





DUTCH MILLS in the NEWS

Southwest Times Record, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Sunday November 29, 1964

Page 6-A

Early Days of Dutch Mills Recalled

Dutch Mills, Ark. - Early in the night the dark storm clouds boiled up over the rim of the westward mountains. Chain lightning flashed and thunder roared like cannon along the upper reaches of Whitaker Branch.

The citizens of the town were not unduly excited. This serene little village in the valley and the surrounding benchlands, with its great flour mill backed up against the branch and its smoke stack shining darkly, had witnessed such electrical storms many times before.

But later in the night there was a roar and a flash like a wagon load of dynamite had exploded. The crash rattled windows in the store buildings and the houses, and the flash lit up the windows of the great white Baptist Church on the hill.

In a moment there were cries of "Fire! The mill is struck! It's burning!"

Before the night was gone the big flour mill, which had been constructed in 1883, was burned practically to the ground.

The fire in the mill is only one of many memories in the mind of Mrs. R. L. Leach, native of Dutch Mills who is serving her 37th year as postmaster of the hamlet. She talked fluently on the history of Dutch Mills, drawing upon her own experiences and those of her grandmothers, Mrs. Tim McCarty who came from Tennessee to the Ozark mountain village in 1859.

Mrs. Leach said the mill had been struck by lightning and burned some 30 odd years ago. Today there is nothing visible of it,

not even the great basement.

Just about where the rear of the mill building once stood is a picturesque little bridge steering traffic toward a filling station and the store and post office, which are the only businesses left in a place which was once the central hub of trade for miles around.

Before and after the turn of the century, from every cleared patch of land in the valleys and on the uplands, farmers cradled and threshed their wheat and hauled it to Dutch Mills to be ground into flour.

Across the line of Indian Territory, later Oklahoma, those who raised wheat and corn usually hauled the grain to Dutch Mills for grinding. The town was a colorful and lively place of business on the busiest day of the year, which was Saturday.

"the mill that burned - the one built in 1883 - was constructed by men named English and Seay," Mrs. Leach said. "The mill was built the same year as the Baptist Church, which still stands up there on the hill."

The white-painted church is an imposing landmark on the westerly bench above Whittaker Branch, its front looking out across the high blue lift of mountains that sweep away on every hand. A neat and well-kept road winds out of the tiny valley past the church and on over the hill. Behind and above the church is a well-kept cemetery, established many years ago.

The original name of Dutch Mills was Hermannsburg. The post office was established on September 27, 1853, with James Hukill the postmaster. The first village was built by a colony of Germans, but their occupancy of the valley was short lived. Shortly after the village was established, the Civil War broke out, and raiding and foraging armies caused the German settlers to flee.

The first grist mills along Whittaker Branch were built by the German settlers, Mrs. Leach said. She said they had been north of the present community, which was renamed Dutch Mills on Oct. 10, 1871, after other settlers had moved in following the war.

"Lumber for the new church and the second mill, both built in 1883, was hauled by wagon from Fort Smith," Mrs. Leach said. "The mill, a great two-story and basement affair, with steam powered engines, was completed first, and Sunday School and church services were held on the lower floor of the mill until the new church was finished.

For many years there was a cotton gin at Dutch Mills, Mrs. Leach said, but it was moved to Stilwell, Okla., after cotton growing dwindled in the northwest Arkansas hills.

She said she could recall many stories of the Civil War told by her grandmother, who had been left alone with a two-year-old son when her husband enlisted in the fighting.

"Neighbors invited Grandmother to live with them during the war," Mrs. Leach said. "Grandmother remembered the German settlers leaving the first village of Hermannsburg—loading their wagons in the night and traveling to Fayetteville. From there they went on into and maybe across Missouri, I think."

The first mill established at Hermannsburg was run by water power, and traces of an old ditch that marked the flume from Whittaker Springs still are visible.

The springs and branch were named for a family of Whittakers who settled about a mile south of Dutch Mills, she said.

"State 59 Highway did not come up the valley for years," Mrs. Leach recalled. "Until the highway was built, folks traveling toward Evansville or Natural Dam followed the road on the west side of the branch."

She said her grandmother who had drawn a small pension after the Civil War, had ridden along that road every three months all the way to Fort Smith to collect her pension money.

"She had a good traveling pony, but it took her two days to make the round trip," Mrs. Leach said. "Grandmother said she always spent a night on the route with a Grandmother Babb at Natural Dam."

Though the town of Dutch Mills has dwindled considerably in population, there still are many fine old homes and many new ones on the benchlands and along the course of the valley.

A new economy has come to the region – the broiler raising business and cattle ranching. Some of the finest Whiteface Angus and dairy cattle in the state are to be seen along the route of Arkansas State 59 in the vicinity of historic old Dutch Mills.

DORRIS CURTIS

Dorris Lafferty Curtis was born March 4, 1908. She died August 27, 2006. Her grandfather is thought to be Charles Wesley Hayes, a veteran of the Civil War buried in Dutch Mills Cemetery.

Dorris began painting when she was 65 years old. Her work is compared to that of “Grandma Moses.” Her entire collection, exhibited in Chicago and Washington D.C., has been donated to the University of Central Arkansas.

In 2004, the University of Arkansas Press published a book about Mrs. Curtis entitled *The Art of Dorris Curtis – Come Walk With Me*. In it, she talks about Dutch Mills.”

“When I was two years old, Mother took me with her to her father’s home at Dutch Mills, Arkansas. The weather was cold, and snow covered the ground. Grandfather was near death, and family members took turns fanning him. This seemed strange, since we sometimes fanned when we were hot. I hovered near the fireplace, where I watched my grandmother trot a baby on her knee and never once let her heel touch the floor. The next morning, Grandfather was in a casket resting on two chairs in another room. Someone lifted me up and removed a bandana from the face of that white-bearded, white haired Civil War



veteran. I don't remember looking at him, but I see his face plainly in memory." (Page 3, *My Life*)



PLOT RESERVATION RULES
DUTCH MILLS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Updated June 19, 2018

A fee of \$250.00 is charged for a burial plot at the Dutch Mills Cemetery (grave opening/closing costs not included). All funds collected are applied to the cost of upkeep of the cemetery.

Payment in full is requested when the plot is reserved.

Burial plots may be reserved in advance, or at the time of need. To make advance reservations or select a plot when previous reservations have not been made, one of the following cemetery officers or board members should be contacted:

(Area Code "479" plus number shown)

Grady Whiteley, President 456-2469

Ken Bailey, Vice President 361-2002

Sharon Swain, Sec/Treas 824-5128

Jerry Leach 824-3854

Tammy Hale 848-3179

Jody Pinkerton 549-507

Steve Pinkerton 848-3434

Roger Eversoll 848-2991

Carolyn Umberson 848-3431

RULES & REQUIREMENTS

1. One burial plot purchase at \$250 allows one burial, either casketed or cremains. Two additional cremains may be buried on the same plot at a charge of \$100 each. Contact any of the above board members for further information or questions regarding cremains burial policy.
2. Plots must be marked by a temporary or permanent marker within a six month period. If assistance is needed in marking reserved plots contact Richard Hale at 479-848-3179. A permanent headstone is required within a 6-month period after the gravesite is opened.
3. Before a gravesite is opened, or a permanent headstone is set, a cemetery representative must be notified to confirm the plot location. An outside burial container is required.

4. No improvements are to be made to the cemetery plot, except the headstone, footstone or temporary marker. Footstones or temporary markers must be at ground level.
5. Plots cannot be resold or transferred without written consent of the Association Board.
6. Flowers must be in vases or secured on the headstone, except during Decoration and two weeks thereafter.

Your suggestions and contributions for the upkeep and care of your cemetery are encouraged.

NOTE: A complete listing of known burials, the cemetery layout and other information is available on the Luginbuel Funeral Home Web Page, www.luginbuel.com.

Payment, if not made previously, can be made by using the form below:

MAIL TO:

SHARON SWAIN @ P.O. BOX 849, LINCOLN, AR 72744

Payment for the burial plot of _____

in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Plot Location Number _____ (if known)

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____



Built in 1883, Liberty Baptist Church served as the Dutch Mills School until local schools consolidated with Lincoln in 1946.