

FAIRBURN CITY CEMETERY

(Old Campbell County now Fulton County, Georgia)

The property on which the Fairburn City Cemetery is located was originally a part of the Mayfield property⁽¹⁾. Mr. William McBride purchased the Mayfield farm⁽²⁾, and on August 3, 1848⁽³⁾, made a gift of 2 acres of land to the Deep Creek Baptist Church. The deed describes this land as "being in the ninth district of originally Fayette now Campbell County known & distinguished by being a part of Lot No. 61, the said two acres bounded on the south side by joining the road running from Atlanta to Newnan thence to be shaped in a square so as to include the elevated part of the hill where Hamilton Mayfield house formerly stood..." Deep Creek Baptist Church was moved from the north end of Fairburn to this property.

In the early 1850's, the Atlanta & LaGrange Railroad, in purchasing a right of way for the new railroad, agreed to swap another parcel of land for the property where the Deep Creek Baptist Church was located. As a result, the church was moved to the present location of the present First Fairburn Baptist Church and changed their name to Fairburn Baptist.

Burials were begun in the present cemetery just a few years after the removal of the church building even though the original deed from William McBride stated, "the said McBride doth hereby reserve for himself, his heirs and assigns, the right of prohibiting any graves or burying ground in the said two acres. . ." After the church was moved from the property, the first persons buried here were: John Washington Stephens (died in 1859); Nathan Camp (died 25 November 1856); and Elida J. Strickland (died 17 June 1859) All of these graves are in close proximity to each other in Section A and Section B at the dirt drive. The back portions of the cemetery, Sections D, E and G, were purchased by the city in 1897.

The grave of Mary Lampkin, who died in 1835, was moved to the cemetery in August, 1902. An article written by Mrs. Sara Swanson Cochran dated August 15, 1953, gives the following explanation of Mary Lamkin's grave: ". . . for many years the small grave of Mary Lampkin was on the spot where the home of Mrs. Lucille Duke now stands. This house was built by Dr. Granger Elder who moved the remains of Mary Lampkin to the Fairburn Cemetery. William McBride and his family, who were living at the crossroads, cared for the grave of the young girl who died when her family was passing through Fairburn.. ."

The earliest marked African American graves are in Section F. They are: Willie Sworns, Aug. 7, 1826 July 2, 1895; Uriah Tolbert, Apr. 10, 1897-June 4, 1899; and Margaret Battle, d. Aug. 24, 1899 "Aged 52 years."

Surveys of the Fairburn City Cemetery have been made by numerous persons over the past few decades. In 1931, Mr. Franklin Garrett, noted Atlanta Historian, surveyed the cemetery and recorded names and dates of all adults interred there. The following, which were recorded by Mr. Garrett, have been moved to Holly Hill Cemetery: Dr. W. H. Elder (1872-1922) moved 5/19/1964; James L. Langston (Sept. 18, 1870 - Oct. 28, 1922); moved 7/21/1966; Emma G. Swanson (May 21, 1853-July 15, 1917) moved 7/21/1966; Robert Lee Swanson (June 9, 1863-Mar. 16, 1915) moved 7/21/1966; Thomas Gilmer Swanson (Mar. 11, 1875-June 1, 1914) moved 7/21/1966; George H. Wooddall (Sept. 5, 1863 - November 16, 1906) moved 5/23/1990.

The earliest marked death date in the back sections of the cemetery is Stephen A. Bagwell, 1839 -1902.

Quite a number of Campbell County officials rest in this cemetery. The first woman sheriff of Georgia, Mrs. Emma Duggan Camp is interred beside her husband, Thomas Wiley Camp, who died in the line of duty while serving as sheriff of Campbell County in 1931. Reuben C. Beavers, who began his career as Clerk of the Inferior Court in the 1840's, was serving as Ordinary when he died in 1898. Numerous other officials are interred here, including many who served as Fairburn officials.

-Nancy J. Cornell

Old Campbell County Georgia; Land Records 1828 – 1854; Deed Books A, C, D & E.

⁽¹⁾ pg 222; *Jacob to Hamilton* 11/17/1845, ⁽²⁾ pg 228; *Hamilton to McBride* 1/20/1846 ⁽³⁾ pg 304; *McBride to Deep Creek Church*