

South Union Church cemetery is located approximately five miles southwest of Bloomington, at the intersection of Rockport and Duval roads. The cemetery is located just behind the old South Union Church building along Duval road. The church was established in 1838. According to the WPA cemetery survey, this is the oldest church cemetery in Monroe County. However there are some older family cemeteries in the county. This church is also known as New Union Church because it is located just north of the New Union village.

This is an active cemetery with just over 400 burials. The original cemetery was surrounded by a chain-link fence that was removed on three sides to allow for the growing number of burials. The fence along Duval road still remains. There is room to accommodate at least another 100 burials in the current area.

Most of the older headstones in the cemetery are limestone obelisks, marble slabs, or field stones. The largest obelisk is for John P and Mary Ann May. There are less than a half dozen stone stump monuments.

According to the records in our Research Library, the oldest burial is Reston Hensley, who died on August 20th, 1859. But I found and photographed a memorial for Nancy Jones, who died on January 22, 1846. There are a few memorials that are broken and cannot be read. There are 21 memorials for burials from before 1900.

Overall the monuments are in good shape. There is no cemetery association, but the church does mowing and minor maintenance.