Bethel Lane Cemetery
Cemetery of the Month February 2016

Bethel Lane Cemetery may have been one of the first cemeteries I noticed in Monroe County because it is so visible – right in front of Hinkle Road. A drive past Griffy Reservoir on Hinkle Road ends as it meets Bethel Lane. (Latitude: 39.21309, Longitude: -86.50511).

Established in the 1830s, originally as the Bethel Methodist Church, the church sat empty for many years until the early 1960s when R.H. “Bob” Marlin was able to purchase the building and grounds from the United Methodist Church. He repaired it and it served as the Old Fashion Bethel Church for years, fulfilling the promise to the Methodists that only nondenominational services be held there. It is again without a congregation, but not without care. Marlin’s descendants are committed to repairing the building and are working with the Monroe County History Center’s Cemetery Committee to keep the cemetery maintained. In October and November 2015, members of the Committee stabilized and reset around 25 headstones. The stone fence to the west of the cemetery needs some repair and hopefully some work can be done in the spring of 2016.

The Cemetery is a historic registry of early families from Monroe County: Baugh, Fielder, Hinkle, Hough, Jackson, Langley, Meadows, Neal, Ramage, Ryan and Stevens. There are
eight Civil War Veterans buried there as well as veterans of the Mexican, WWI, WWII, and Korean Wars.

At least three tree-stump gravestones are at Bethel Lane. Hopefully the trees beside the twin stones can be removed in the spring when the stone fence work is to be completed.
There are stones that clearly illustrate the economic rough times of the 1930’s:

Newer burials illustrate some of the newer tombstone designs:

Visit Bethel Lane and read more about it at the Monroe County History Center.