METHODIST CEMETERY
ELLETTSVILLE, INDIANA

December 2013

Joel A. Kirby and his family came to Monroe County "from the east" in 1824 and settled one mile west of Ellettsville. Church was held in his home every other Sunday. In 1846, Kirby donated an acre of ground on his farm on Reeves Road in Ellettsville for what was then to be called "Wesley Chapel." The church moved to downtown Ellettsville in the later years. He later gave an additional plot for a cemetery now known as the Ellettsville Methodist Cemetery. (Randi Richardson)

*Find a Grave* has a listing of most of the gravesites in the Methodist Cemetery. Many of the people, including Moore, McNeeley, Starnes, were prominent members of the Ellettsville community. There are several tree stump monuments in the cemetery. Usually tree stumps were monuments for graves of men who were members of Woodsmen of the World, founded in 1890 by Joseph Cullen Root. Some stumps have other symbols such as anchors, lilies, vines, etc. There is such a monument with vines in the Methodist Cemetery. Broken branches symbolize a life cut short, and many of the people in this cemetery died young, probably from a life of hard work.

While visiting the cemetery, I was able to find my great-grandparents, grandparents and uncle who was a twin brother to my father and died when he was two days old. My uncle’s grave
was marked with a lamb, symbolizing a child. The Gilliland family settled in the Ellettsville area in the late 1800’s, and my grandpa used to walk across the fields to visit my grandmother who lived on Hartstrait Road across from the House of Prayer. In the early 1900’s that was a very long walk to court someone.

There is an iron fence around some of the gravesites, but I found it interesting that this partitioned area was not a family plot; all the names on the stones were different.

The Methodist cemetery is an old cemetery, but over the years it has not been filled up with graves like other older cemeteries. This occurrence may be due to the fact that people are living longer than they did in the past.

-- Linda Stines