

Old Simpson Chapel Cemetery

By: Linda Stines

The first visit to the Old Simpson Chapel Cemetery, formerly known as Brown Mission, was a disappointment as someone had vandalized the cemetery. Broken and overturned headstones were lying all over the cemetery. The Monroe County History Center's cemetery committee performed a workday and reset and repaired many of the stones. I visited a second time and was pleased to see the wonderful work they had done.

I spoke with Earl Brummett, long time member of the Simpson Chapel Church and historian of the church and cemetery. He said the Gaskins family owned the land where the old log church sat in 1838. Mary Gaskins gave the land for the log church to be built.

John Back was a black man who fought in the Revolutionary War as a Private with General George R. Clark and is buried in the old cemetery. Earl mentioned that after Mr. Back was buried in the cemetery in 1840. No one else was buried in the cemetery.

New Simpson Chapel Cemetery

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The New Simpson Chapel Cemetery was founded in 1857. Three churches sat on the land. The first one was razed for a second newer church. The second church burned in 1951 and the current church was built and dedicated in 1954.

The cemetery has some older limestone monuments. Ray has a Bible and flowers on the top. McNeely has a couple of roofs and fence around their graves.

Simpson Chapel has many soldiers buried in it as the farmers made good soldiers in the 1800's and early 1900s. Charles Gaskins, Cpl Field Artillery in WWII received a Gold Star for dying from wounds in battle in Germany April 22, 1945. Following is a list of the brave men who fought for the country.

War of 1812

William Smith
William Gaskins
J. Robinson Young

War of 1861-1865

Jno. M. Adama
Ancil Adams
Jw. E. Anderson
John Smith
Steven R. Elliott
Thos. M. Gaskins
Samuel Gaskins
Henry Withrow
Thos. Bastin
Joseph F. Gaskins
Henry Syms

Hosea Gaskins
George W. Neal
Anderson Bastin
Robert Syms
John E. Bastin
John R. Brough
Wiseman M. Anderson
Jonathan H. Bastin
Wm. E. Wood
Tom Fulford
Geo. L. Smith

Confederate Soldiers

James Duncan
Marsh Duncan
A.W. Jones

WWI

Elbert Lessie Spradling
Glenn Fulford
Wendell Rawlins
Raymond John Olsen

WWII

Charles Gaskins
Floyd Lawson
Curtis Foster
John Dugan
Fred Elmer Waldon
Allie May Spradling Runyon
Walter Pritchard
Larry Lee Runyon
Thomas League

Vietnam

Mark Wayne Surber
David Lee Robinson