

High on a Windy Hill

Catherine Sanders McConnell

Above the distant valley,
Above the druid hill,
They lie a quiet sleeper
Upon a lonely hill.

All the long days of summer,
The low wind whisper by,
And the soft voices of the leaves
Make a murmurous reply.

All the long eves of autumn
The loving shadows nest
Round this careworn slumbering place
Beneath the cool hill grass.

All the long nights of winter
The white drifts heap and heap
The snows of the year
The snows of the year



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Preface

The work of copying records from tombstones was started ten years ago as one of several projects of the Committee for Collecting Historical Data in The Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia. This compilation is confined to this county; however, several cemeteries near the lines of adjoining counties have been included because of historical relationship to the lands and people.

County road maps, Tennessee Valley Authority quadrangles and soil maps of the United States Department of Agriculture have been most important in finding locations. Residents in the different communities became interested and offered to give information as to locations of little private graveyards, which were usually found high on a windy hill and often under evergreen trees. In many instances the cemetery is in a church yard. Since the modern cemetery is now in a convenient place, the small family cemetery is beginning to be almost a thing of the past.

In general the cemeteries are well kept even though many stones have become shards. In the springtime hyacinths, daffodils, lilies and roses bloom from a carpet of periwinkle entirely covering some of the small abandoned cemeteries. There are others overgrown with briars, scrubby plants and fallen trees where only by using garden implements could some of the stones be found. Frequently one finds boxwood which was carefully planted at the graves many years ago. Very little symbolism was found except for the willow tree, the dove, the star and the clasped hands.

From many of the spots found in Washington County the poet Clinton Scollard (1860-1932) could have been inspired to write:

THE SLEEPER

Above the cloistral valley,
Above the druid rill,
There lies a quiet sleeper
Upon a lonely hill.

All the long days of summer
The low winds whisper by,
And the soft voices of the leaves
Make a murmurous reply.

All the long eves of autumn
The loving shadows mass
Round this sequestered slumbering-place
Beneath the cool hill grass.

All the long nights of winter
The white drifts heap and heap
To form a fleecy coverlet
Above the dreamer's sleep.

All the long morns of springtime
The tear-drops of the dew
Gleam in the violet's tender eyes
As if the blossoms knew.

Ah, who would break the rapture
Brooding and sweet and still,
The great peace of the sleeper
Upon the lonely hill!

Sulfridge, Sarah H., 1853-1938
 Sorah, Robert Lee, 29 Mar. 1889—16 Apr. 1929
 Sorah, Myrtle M., 2 Sep. 1890—15 Aug. 1953
 Sorah, Buster, 1 Apr. to 11 Oct. 1911
 Smith, Arthur, 1881-1932
 Sult, Harvey S., 1833-1932
 Sult, Elizabeth, 1863-1938
 Sulfridge, James L., 1878-1960
 Taylor, Kate Sult, 1896-1929
 Tester, Wilburn D., 1940-1941
 Tester, Sally Ann, 4 Jun. 1885—22 Jan. 1959
 Tester, Wiley W., 20 Mar. 1883—
 Tester, Brenda Gay, 2 Jan. 1961 (only date on f.m.)
 Trivett, Charles R., 1916-1943
 Teaster, Carol Louise (no dates)
 Tester, Glenn Roy (no dates on f.m.)
 Tester, Robert Lee (no dates on f.m.)
 Tillison, Nannie C. Woods, w/o G. W. Tillison, 12 Aug. 1873—14 Oct. 1936
 Thomas, Joe, 15 Sep. 1882—15 May 1949
 Thomas, Beulah C., 8 Mar. 1911—3 Feb. 1941
 Warden, Ida Williams, 16 Dec. 1898—8 Jun. 1927
 Williams, Mrs. W. M., 1906-1930
 Williams, Bessie M. Trivett, 1899-1926
 Wampler, John S., 17 Oct. 1892—17 Oct. 1959
 Willard, Ellen, w/o H. A. Willard, 11 Dec. 1833—6 Oct. 1886
 Worley, Alice Quailes, w/o Peter Worley, 25 Jan. 1871—26 Oct. 1928, "Mother"
 Worley, Peter, 23 Feb. 1859—28 Apr. 1935, "Father"
 Woods, Gertrude, 1893-1928
 Wolfe, Lillian, 1926-1942
 Wolfe, Nannie H., 1902-1935, "Mother"
 Wolfe, Stewart A., 1900-1945
 Willis, Carl R., 5 May 1926—22 Dec. 1927
 Wright, Moses, 1856-1934
 Wilson, James, 1895-1934
 Wilson, Donald L., 1941-1942
 Williams, Howard, 25 May 1921—6 Sep. 1945
 Williams, Willie C., 14 Sep. 1886—20 Jul. 1944
 Weddle, Sidney A., 20 Aug. 1879—7 Jan. 1949
 Wade, Harry W., 1898-1943
 Webster, Monroe, 1870-1929
 Webster, Maggie, 1879-1928
 Webster, Maggie, 1879-1928
 Webster, William, (m.m.) Tenn. Pvt. USA, 22 Sep. 1905—31 Mar. 1945
 Young, Edwin C., 1875-1958, brother of Rebecca Young Smith

16 Oct. 1966 by Davis & McConnell

Area outside center drive and on the north side

Anderson, Isaac S., 16 Dec. 1887—13 May 1941
 Addison, George H., MSgt. 905 Glider Fld Arty Bn. WWII, 23 Jun. 1915—9 Jan. 1966
 Addison, Marjorie M., 2 Oct. 1917—
 Austin, George L. (no dates)
 Barham, Anna Mae, b/d 1905
 Blaylock, Walter B., 1922—
 Blaylock, Janette K., 1922-1964
 Bowman, Calvin M., 26 Jan. 1940—9 Jun. 1964
 Barnette, W. Clyde, 1908-1965
 Broswell, Dettie H., 1925-1954
 Broswell, Charles T., 1889-1962
 Broswell, Mary L., 1895—
 Baker, Carlos Utah, 1941-1960