

Adkisson Cemetery

Faulkner County, Arkansas



Census and History by Sondra Johnson

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Dedication and Acknowledgements

This census is dedicated to my sweet, dear mother, Veradean McCord, my wise and understanding sister, Charlotte Moudy, and Suzee Cia, my tried-and true, faithful friend, who have continually supported my efforts to complete this long and difficult project.

It is also dedicated to the memory of so many loved ones that have gone before us, whose lives changed our history and our perspectives of life.

To my Lord and Savior, whom I thank for guiding me and watching over me as I walked the hallowed grounds and for giving me courage, strength, and determination.

Throughout the years that it took to complete the Faulkner County Cemetery Census, I was helped along the way by many people. To name them all, would be difficult due to the passage of time and I would run the risk of omitting some. However, I would like to especially thank the following: Veradean (Johnson) McCord, Charlotte (Johnson) Moudy, Stephanie (Moudy) Weatherington, Glenna (Blair) Shumate, Suzee (White) Cia, Joe Melton, Connie (Hall) Weir, Lynita Langley-Ware, Desmond (Walls) Allen, Euna and Steve Beavers, Charles Parsons, and Vivian Hogue.



— Faulkner County, Arkansas, Cemetery Census by Sondra Johnson —

For more information on the cemeteries of Faulkner County, Arkansas, contact Sondra Johnson at littlefishes@windstream.net or the Faulkner County Museum at fcm@conwaycorp.com

Adkisson Cemetery

GPS Coordinates: 35 17.3241 92 7.4974
Township 8 N, Range 11 West, Section 36
Political Township: Mountain

Location and Description

Located in a small grove of pine trees, Adkisson Cemetery is the resting place of Sampson Adkisson and his second wife, Martha Washington (Butler) Adkisson. The cemetery is on the old Adkisson farm just before the Cadron crosses Highway 36 in northeast Faulkner County. At the time of this survey, the land was still owned by an Adkisson descendant, Richard B. Adkisson.

History

Written in 1947 by Dallas T. Herndon, the Annals of Arkansas contained an interesting and informative history about the Adkisson family:

The Adkissons are Arkansas pioneers. Jesse Adkisson and his wife, Josephine Patrick, moved from Tipton County, Tennessee, to Arkansas about 1834. They settled in that part of the Arkansas Territory which was known as Conway County.

Sampson Adkisson, the oldest son of Jesse and Josephine, was a lad of 15 years when his parents moved to Arkansas, he having been born April 3, 1819. In 1841, Sampson married Elizabeth Heffington, and moved off to a new settlement of his own about five miles north of Mount Vernon, where he cleared a farm, bought other tracts of land, raised cattle and other stock. By dint of hard work and intelligent thrift, he accumulated wealth, which he used in a way that on the respect of his neighbors for him as a man of character and substance.

He and his younger brother, Anderson Adkisson, who had married and settled near Sampson, built and operated a grist mill on Cadron Creek, which, tradition says, was the first water-powered mill ever operated in that part of Arkansas. They were commissioned by the Confederate government to operate a tannery and 'hand factory, which they had built and owned. They tanned the raw hides into shoe and saddle leather, and maintained a 'factory' for the manufacture of shoes and saddles for the Confederates. The secluded spot they picked for their enterprises is still known, for that reason, as the "Tanyard Spring."

In the perilous period of reconstruction, from 1865 to 1875, Mr. Adkisson and his neighbors were forced to live dangerously because of the Jayhawkers, who, under the pretense of saving the Union, overran the countryside there at will, stealing what they would and killing any who dared to resist them.

The Hartons of Conway, who lived then near Quitman, are authority for the story of how, as a friend and neighbor, Sampson Adkisson, on one occasion during those trying times, saved them at the pain of his own pillage, daring his own sudden death at the hands of a band of the looters. Having surprised and raided him in his home in the dead of night, they then threatened him with torture and death, unless he consented to act as a guide and take them through the hills to the home of the Hartons, of whom the band had heard as people of wealth.

Mr. Adkisson consented to do the bidding of his captors, as he made them believe, in good faith. Instead, he led them astray and got them lost in the mountains. At the risk of losing his own life, he succeeded, before the dawn of another day, in making good his own escape. The Hartons were forewarned forthwith of the possible return of the Jayhawkers. Thus was sealed a bond of mutual respect, as between the Hartons and Adkissons, which is still remembered and kept alive.

In 1863, Sampson's wife, Elizabeth, died, and he was left a widower with three small children. The next year, in 1864, he met and married a young war-widow, who, before her first marriage, had been Miss Martha Washington Butler. Of this union, there was born George Washington Adkisson, July 3, 1865; David, June 12, 1867; Josephine, April 10, 1870; and Edward Butler, January 3, 1875. The marriage of these two, Sampson Adkisson and Martha Butler, was a happy union for the two of them.

Mrs. Adkisson died March 13, 1891; he, on September 18, 1903. They are buried in a little, shady grove, on a knoll, by the side of Cadron Creek, on the home farm where they had lived."

The children of Sampson and Elizabeth Heffington (1826-1863) are: Jessie (1844—); Elizabeth Susan (Adkisson) Bell (1849-1931); Sarah J. (b. 1850); Nancy Parlee (1856-1877); and Thomas (1859-1933). Sampson and Martha Washington Butler Adkisson had four children: George Washington (b. 3 Jul 1865); David (b. 12 Jun 1867); Josephine Majors (b. 10 Apr 1870); and Edward Butler (b. 3 Jan 1875). Later in life, Sampson married Mrs. Mary E. Williams July 2, 1893, in Faulkner County.

Census Data

The monument of Sampson Adkisson is inscribed as follows: "Sampson Adkisson, Born April 3, 1819, Died Sept. 18, 1903, Aged 84 ys, 5 mos, 15 ds." At the time of this survey, the monument of Martha had been removed for repairs and taken to the home of Ed Herndon in Mt. Vernon. The monument was returned to its original place in the cemetery in the early part of 2006 and is inscribed as follows: "Martha W. Adkisson, Born June 12, 1837, Died March 13, 1891, A Devoted Mother."

There is also evidence of two graves covered with large rock slabs. One of these is likely the grave of Sampson's first wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1863.

Adkisson Cemetery was surveyed on July 23, 2003, accompanied by Bobby King. Biographical information was furnished by the Hon. Richard B. Adkisson, a notable descendant of these Faulkner County pioneers.



Driving Directions: From Mount Vernon, drive approximately five miles north on Highway 36. The cemetery is located on the west (left) side of the highway right after crossing over the East Fork of the Cadron on the old Adkisson farm. Permission must be granted before crossing cattle fences or going through farm gates.

Resources

[Faulkner County Census of Cemeteries as of December 31, 1987.](#) Faulkner County Historical Society

Herndon, Dallas T., Ed., [Annals of Arkansas \(1947\)](#), The Historical Record Association, Little Rock, Arkansas

Shubert, Dwight. [Faulkner County Marriage Index, 1873-1925, Vol. 1](#), 1996.

