

Beeler Cemetery

Plainview, Arkansas



Photo by Leroy Blair

This Cemetery is also known as: Beals or Cullum Cemetery.

GPS Location: :615732 - 907506

Arkansas Archeological Survey site #: 3WH0623

Number of Marked Graves: About 20

Number of Unmarked Graves: Unknown

The last complete survey of this cemetery was: September, 2010. By Leroy Blair

Current status of cemetery: This cemetery is no longer being used.

Point of contact for cemetery. Donnie Stevens 501-729-3204.

This is one of White County's most historic and forgotten cemeteries. Beeler's Ferry was once an important crossing on the Little Red River. Today the area is marked by the basement of the Beeler house that was built about 1840, and the cemetery where members of the Beeler family are probably buried. The Batesville-Little Rock road that was built after Searcy was established as the county seat in 1837 crossed the Little Red due north of Searcy, near a spot called Moccasin Bend. The road had sufficient use that by May of 1839 the county court granted a license to John Beeler for a ferry across the river. Beeler died only four years later but his widow Hannah continued to operate the ferry. The Beeler house was located on the north side of the river on the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 23. The house faced east and was no doubt a way stop for travelers. The house must have been substantially built because it had a basement or full cellar under it. The hole of the basement remains today, marking one of the oldest located home sites in the county.

About one-fourth mile west behind the house site is the cemetery. The cemetery has several graves marked with rocks, as well as some 20 graves marked with tombstones. The oldest marked grave is 1860, with the last date on a marked grave being 1923. When the cemetery was visited by members of the White County Historical Society in 1986 and again in 2000, it was not easily accessible by vehicle. The fence was down, and no attempt at upkeep was being made. But at the direction of White County Judge Bob Parish, a gravel road to the cemetery was built in the summer of 2002. The cemetery was subsequently fenced.

Cloie Presley of the WCHS described the cemetery as "located on the Hans Keller farm in the N ½ of SW ¼ Section 23, Township 8 North, Range 7 West. The whole farm is overgrown and unattended and it is almost impossible to find the cemetery unless the exact location is known." Helping her prepare the listing on April 6, 1986, were her husband Leister

Presley, W.E. Leach, Hubert Epperson and "Mrs. Frederick." Leach, who was the Historical Society president, stated in an article for the 1987 White County Heritage that he thought the Beelers were buried here. Mrs. Presley noted that there were six graves listed by Jane Goodwin of Newport eight years earlier which the 1986 group could not find. They are indicated on the following list. This cemetery has been called Beal Cemetery and Cullum Cemetery. Beals and Cullums are buried here. But Jim Lowery, a White County Historical Society member who has lived at Moccasin Bend for some 60 years said in 2001 he had "never heard it called anything but Beeler Cemetery." He pointed out that the graveyard was located on the Beeler plantation.

Beeler's Ferry was the site of a Civil War skirmish June 6, 1864, witnessed by 18-year-old Nancy Cullum, as recounted in the 1987 White County Heritage and March 17, 1998, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (page 4E). Descendents of Nancy Cullum still lived in the area in 1999. According to a taped statement from Albert Lowery of Judsonia, descendent of Nancy Cullum Lowery (and father of Jim Lowery), there are others buried in this cemetery - including four Yankee soldiers that Nancy saw killed in the skirmish with Confederates on the Batesville-Searcy road in front of the Joe Hoofman farmhouse. Albert Lowery told his son Jim that Nan helped bury the Federals. He also stated that he knew Samuel J. Lowery, William Calvin Lowery (son of Samuel J.), Bruce H. Cullum and a child of Albert and Leo Lowery who died December 22, 1923, are buried here.

The section of the Searcy-Batesville Road and Beeler Ferry was abandoned with the construction of a bridge a mile and a half downstream about 1915.

The cemetery was visited by Leroy Blair of the White County Historical Society September 13, 2000. Following is his report: "It was very hard to find. To get to it from Searcy go out Salem Church Road to Moccasin Bend Road. Turn left and go to the grass sod farm. Moccasin Bend Road will turn to the right. Don't turn - go straight down a dirt road through the sod farm. You will come to a small creek. After you cross the creek turn at the next road to the left. It will run by the wood line for a short distance. It will then enter the woods as a logging road. After you enter the woods you will need an ATV or walk. The cemetery is on the left about one-quarter mile into the woods. You will have to look very carefully or you will miss it. A gentleman who lives in the area took me to it. He had been to the cemetery several times but he had trouble finding it. The cemetery is in very bad condition. I did not find the following graves which were listed before: C.O., carved on a rock; Keller, Herbert - September 14, 1911 - September 25, 1911; Vanmeter, Mary, wife of A.V. Vanmeter. There are a lot of unmarked graves. It is very hard to tell just how many due to the heavy amount of leaves on the ground."

The White County Historical Society received information in June 2002 from Wilma Sneddon of Joplin, Missouri, which indicated that the Mary Vanmeter buried here was Mary Emeline Beeler, the daughter of John and Hannah Beeler. She was married at age 19 to Americus Vespuccius VanMeter in White County on September 9, 1852, but died the following year and was buried here. There are no known children from this marriage. A.V. VanMeter married again on September 14, 1853, and lived at Judsonia. [See VanMeter Cemetery.]

If you have corrections or additions to this list or other information on this Cemetery, Contact the White County Historical Society, P.O. Box 537, Searcy, AR 72145. Or phone 501- 278- 5010

Following is a list of known burials in this cemetery.

Beals, George Westley - March 8, 1877 - June 2, 1881 - Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR

Beals, Oliver - No dates - Co. K, 117th ILL Inf - Civil War Veteran - Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR

Beals, Sarah E. - March 4, 1856 - December 23, 1903 - Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR

Butler, David - March 9, 1838 - March 30, 1899 - Co. G. 10th Ark Inf. C.S.A. - Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR

Cullum, B.H. - Died November 27, 1860 - Age 28 years - Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR

Cullum, Christopher C. - August 10, 1865 - January 9, 1911 - Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR

Cullum, Infant - No dates - Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR

Cullum, Infant - July 17, 1893 - Only date listed - Son of C.C. & Sarah - Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR

Cullum, Nellie Myrtle - August 28, 1896 - June 22, 1897 - Daughter of C.C. & Sarah - Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR

Cullum, Phebe Ann – Died December ?, 1865 – Age 19 years – Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR
Fife, Homer – April 7, 1903 – December 12, 1919 – Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR
Keller, Herbert – September 14, 1911 – September 25, 1911 – Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR
Lowery, Infant – Died December 22, 1923 – Only date – (Unmarked grave) – Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR
Lowery, Samuel J. – No dates – (Unmarked grave) – Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR
Lowery, William Calvin – No dates – Son of Samuel J. – (Unmarked grave) – Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR
Shaver, George W. – July 4, 1864 – June 1, 1923 – Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR
Stephens, Florence A. – December 7, 1915 – February 20, 1916 – Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR
Vanhoose, Effie – June 29, 1892 – October 26, 1917 – Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR
VanMeter, Mary Emeline – 1833 – September 9, 1852 – Beeler / Cullum Cemetery, Plainview AR

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Following is a list of all known Cemeteries in White County Arkansas, Also included are Cemeteries in other counties that are near the White County Line that may have people from White County buried there.\$

Most of the cemetery information listed was collected by Leroy “Lee” Blair Former member of the White County Historical Society Board of Directors. Now working at the White County Historical Society office

If you have any additions or corrections to the burial listing please contact the Historical Society Phone 501-278-5010 or Email me at lblblair74@gmail.com or wchs1962@gmail.com

At the end of the cemetery list s a list of people from White County that have died that do not have cemetery listed or they are buried in a cemetery that we do not keep records on.

I will be posting more burials later. The Searcy Daily Citizen donated all their Micro Film and Ledgers dating back to 1953 as I look at them if I find a death of a person that we do not have I will to add to the cemetery listings.

There are some graves listed as unmarked that may have had a tombstone set since the listing was made.

I may have missed some graves when I done the listing, Some cemeteries are very hard to get good listing due to how some graves are scattered

The following Abbreviations are used in the listings.

FM – Funeral home marker

DS – Double tombstone

TS – Triple tombstone

The word (Obit) means that the Historical Society has or has access to the Obituary for this person.