

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1970

1904 News Tells Of Scotch Graveyard

The following article appeared in the issue of April 4, 1904 of the Moore County News on the old Scotch Graveyard located west of Carthage and should be of much interest not only to the older residents but the younger generation as well.

The article reads:

Seven miles due west of Carthage on a high plateau from which can be seen the town is situated an old cemetery, known as "The Old Scotch Graveyard" which possesses peculiar interest.

Here, in this quiet wooded spot where majestic oaks and graceful pines lift their heads high about the surrounding forest standing mighty sentinels to guard the silent forms beneath their branches, rest and moulder the mortal remains of many of the early settlers of this and surrounding section of country.

Here and there the tombs lie, some marked with rude stones but many unmarked and forgotten, of our forefathers and ancestors, some of whom have slept there, perchance, for an hundred and fifty years and possibly longer, for before Moore County was cut off from Cumberland in 1784, this had been the burial ground of the country for miles around. We find here the following (verbatim et litteratim) inscriptions chiseled in rude form, a few on marble, many on native brownstone and a few on rocks in their native shapes while one was chiseled upon a slab of heart pine, which retain the lettering in a far more legible state than many of the stones of a later date.

Here are a few:

Neill McNeill di'd Aug. 25 1845, aged 85 years.

Sacred Memorial of Allan McLean was born Sept. 25, 1776; died the 2d of May 1839.

Christian McLean born Jan. 1, 1780; died July 3, 1851.

Sacred to the memory of Margaret McLean was born Aug. 2, 1802; died Febr'y 19, 1848.

The sacred memory of Norman McLeod and died July 8 A.D. 1836 ag'd 72 years.

Ann McLeod died March 26, 1842. E. McLeod, M. T. McLeod, R.M. McLeod and D. McLeod.

Mrs. Janette McDonald and died 2d Sept. 1824. Kenneth Marchinson born Oct. 10. A.D., 1745 died April 12th 1817 in the 72nd year of his age.

Ann McMillan died 18 Mch. 1810. Sacred to memory of Norman Matheson who died August 18, 1846 in the 78th year of his age. Hear leis Nancy McCaskill de'c Feby 29th, 1825 age about 07. Sacred to the memory of Angus McCaskill who dided June the 26, 1853 age 47 years 6 mos & 27 days. In memory of Elizabeth relict of Angus McCaskill born Apl 23, 1813 died Dec'r: 17, 1878. In sacred memory of Alexander McCaskill age about 70 years & died the 18 of March 1840. Mary McCaskill aged 44 years and died the 20 of June 1835. Here lies Angus McCaskill died the 6th of March 1807.

These are a few of the inscriptions on the graves and we will complete the list later.

It was pointed out that Col. John Morrison who was Clerk of the Superior Court for twenty-two years is buried there and the grave unmarked, but the tombstones are in Carthage and have never been put up said the writer.

Further stated the article as follows:

Hard by is the dim outline of a race track used, we are told by the oldest men of this section on occasions of burials which was a lingering remnant of the Scotch and Irish Wakes. (In passing let me state that it was a custom among the Scotch and Irish to observe what they termed a "wake" when anyone died and consisted of a series of observances which were always practiced and was often times carried to excess and assumed the proportion of a frolic.) The writer had an interview with W. G. Robertson, superintendent of Cameron Cotton Mills, who came to the U.S. from Scotland in the year 1860 and as late as 1904 the "wake" was still held at the time of a death in Scotland and Ireland, but that the Scotch "Wake" differed from the Irish in that it was not carried to the excess.

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This article was sent to me on January 22, 2023, by Jim McCaskill who has some of his kin folks eternally resting in the Old Scotch Graveyard.