

A Stroll Through Grapevine Cemetery

By Rev. W. H. Moore

Written in 1909

This cemetery is the most beautiful to be seen in all this country. Grapevine congregation organized in 1832; the ground on which the house stands was given by Harry Goodloe¹ - - the first white person buried there was the daughter of Uncle Kemp Goodloe² in 1840, just 60 years ago³. In 1884 the cemetery was enlarged - - several acres were added - - this is filling up rapidly. Here can be seen the graves of our ancestors. I was walking in this cemetery some time ago. I noticed the grave of the first druggist I ever knew, N. M. Holeman, nearby is the grave of the first physician I ever knew, Dr. Ray Nisbet, one who was generous and attentive to the sick. He was charitable. No doubt he did more practice for which he received nothing than any other physician in the country. He was active in practice during the war⁴, when the people were suffering the poverty and distress of the times. He was a common sense, large hearted good physician, wearing a melancholy appearance. He was always thinking, over ready to give advice, I shall always cherish his memory.

Nearby is the grave of the first grocer I ever dealt with, J. E. Ruby, always wearing a smile, with a hearty handshake he met everybody. Noted for his fair dealings he numbered his friends by his acquaintances, by his friendly disposition he made friends of all whom he came in contact.

I also visited the grave of the first preacher I ever heard, Dr. O. Collins. I remember meeting him for the first time at Bethel one cold Sunday, it was the first day of the year; the first day of the month and was the first day of the week. I was but a small boy and shall never forget his kind words to me as we gathered sticks to kindle a fire.

In Grapevine Cemetery can be seen the graves of what I consider are great men, such as J. Green Todd, Crutchfield Young, Horace Pritchett, T. K., J. E.

¹ Harry Goodloe was Henry Lewis Goodloe, Sr. (b. 10 Mar 1779, d. 29 Jul 1856)

² "Uncle Kemp" was Thomas Kemp Goodloe, son of Harry Goodloe.

³ This may not be correct. According to Hopkins County Cemeteries, V. 2, Mary E. Pritchett who died 17 Nov 1837 is buried (or at least has a headstone) in Grapevine Cemetery. Other sources have stated that the 1st person buried in Grapevine Cemetery was a grandchild of Henry L. "Harry" Goodloe. Both Kemp Goodloe's daughter mentioned above and Mary Pritchett were Harry's granddaughters so it's possible Rev. Moore was confused on this issue.

⁴ Since this was written in 1909, "the war" he referenced would have been the Civil War.

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& Henry Goodloe, great on account of their goodness, honor and piety.

I visited the grave of the old Goodloes', Harry Goodloe, his wife and children; in some respects this was a remarkable family. In an early day when Harry was 12 years old (1791), he came with his parents from Virginia with Capt. Emerson as leader of a small company and settled where Lexington, Kentucky now stands. At that time Kentucky had many red men and wild beasts. In an early day, Uncle Harry came to Hopkins County and settled where Grapevine now stands, and reared a large family who were noted for piety and length of life.

Uncle Harry lived to be 77 years of age, his wife 85, they had three sons, and four daughters. Uncle Kemp their oldest son was 85 when he died; Uncle Jack⁵ was 88; Uncle Henry⁶ was 78. Their daughters were: Mrs. Polly Yates who lived to the good old age of 92; Mrs. Lucy Pritchett to the age of 82; Mrs. Eliza Hall was 70; Mrs. Jane Davis was 76; this is remarkable. I am inclined to believe that their manner of life prolonged their days on earth, they were regular in their habits, they never fretted or worried about anything, they were meek and quiet dispositions and full of sunshine, they had kind words for all, they never turned the cold shoulder to anyone. The rich and the poor, black and white, high and low were their friends. To turn a cold shoulder and snub those who were unfortunate is not the Goodloes'. It was a benediction to be in their company.

Uncle Kemp was full of sunshine but ready to speak his sentiments. I have heard it said that during the war a company of Federal soldiers, the 2nd 65th came to Madisonville and gave the people some trouble. Uncle Kemp was on the streets one morning, the soldiers standing all around him, some one whispered to him saying "Uncle Kemp, the 2nd 6th is going to leave today". Uncle Kemp said with a loud voice, "Gracious God send it, I will swap them for any other set of rogues on earth".

Uncle Jack, with the disposition of gentleness, full of kindness, all the children of the community loved him. A man of very deep piety always

⁵ "Uncle Jack" was John Emerson Goodloe and was Rev. Moore's father-in-law.

⁶ "Uncle Henry" was Henry Lewis Goodloe, Jr.

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ready to reprove and admonish in a kind way that made me feel that it was done by a friend for good, everybody was his friend.

Uncle Henry, full of sunshine, all the time he loved the old-time things, the old songs and all old customs. I remember years ago during a protracted meeting in Madisonville that quite a fine singer visited the meeting and one night he sang one of his finest solos, all seemed delighted, as he left the house I heard some one ask Uncle Henry how he liked the sold, he answered by saying: "I had rather hear a boy blow a pumpkin vine".

The sons and daughters of Uncle Harry Goodloe had the elements of true greatness.

*Bro. Moore now rests in the Grapevine Cemetery he loved;
Rev. William H. Moore Nov. 6, 1858 - Sept. 15, 1954
Virginia E. Moore July 18, 1856 - Jan. 15, 1953⁷*

Note: Rev. William Henry Moore lived in Hopkins County, KY 1858-1954. He married Virginia E. Goodloe, daughter of John Emerson Goodloe and granddaughter of Henry Lewis Goodloe, Sr. All footnotes were added by Linda McCauley, www.lfmccauley.com.

⁷ This reference to Rev. & Mrs. Moore was added when his "Stroll Through Grapevine" was reprinted in the newspaper sometime after Rev. Moore's death in 1954. It was unclear from the transcript when it was published in the newspaper. The transcript of this article was found in the Goodloe Family folder at the Kentucky Historical Society Library and was from the records of Mrs. Henry C. Alford, Jr. of Owensboro, KY.