

**CRAWFORD COUNTY
TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS**

**NANCE
CEMETERY**

William C. Cuthbertson

Crawford County Genealogy Society

NANCE CEMETERY

Located on NE $\frac{1}{2}$ Sect. 36, Twp. 27S, Rge. 24 E.

The NE cor. of this sect. is a mile E and $\frac{1}{2}$ S of Cato, and Drywood was just to the E on N side of road.

From the NE cor. of Sect. 36, go .2 mi. S, then back up a lane to the W nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the residence of Clayburn Simpson. Just W of their barn turn N & walk about 200 yds. to the cem. on a high spot. Drywood Creek must be close to the N.

The cem. has grown into a dense thicket of trees, brush & vines, almost impossible to get through. It is fenced, and might be 100 ft. N-S and 200 ft. E-W, although in the dense underbrush one can see only a small part at a time. Wire fence blocked the gate so it was necessary to climb the fence to enter.

Most of the graves are in the W $\frac{2}{3}$, and no doubt many graves are not marked. By careful searching, we hope no stones were overlooked in the brush. Near the south central part is a stone fence surrounding 4 graves which are very old, see notes below.

Mrs. Clayburn Simpson who lives on the farm, which was homesteaded by her great-grandfather Joshua Nance who is buried here, opened a gate to let us through at the barn and pointed the way across a pasture. Neither she nor her husband knew who was buried in the 4 graves enclosed by the rock wall, but knew they were not Nance graves.

Dale Smith, great-grandson of Nels Smith, who lives on the farm of his grandfather Peter Smith just W of Cato, first told us of this cem.

Visited 10-7-1970 by Wm. & Jessie Cuthbertson, and copied by Wm. Cuthbertson. A black cat and a white dog belonging to the Simpsons accompanied us to and through the cem., and we felt much safer concerning rattlesnakes, etc., in the underbrush, to have them underfoot at all times.

Revisited 2-14-1972 by Wm. Cuthbertson & Ernie Stevens. A few dates were added and found the stone of Zachary Nance, overlooked on the first visit.

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Mason Boggs had heard this cemetery called the Dearing Cem.

Mrs. Opal Marshall, nee Palmer, of Girard, formerly of this vicinity, referred to this as the Dearing Cem., her grandfather's sister Nancy Dearing, nee Bixler, lived on this farm. Mrs. Marshall had heard the story that a mother and 3 children died of cholera in a covered wagon coming through the country and were buried in the rock-walled enclosure.

Mrs. Sam Battaglia, nee Nance, of Girard, said a man stopped at the Nance place on his way to Oregon in wintertime in a covered wagon. His wife and 4 children had died and Mr. Nance let him bury them there on his farm. The man later married Mr. Nance's daughter.

Mrs. Lelia Nance of Pawnee had heard three of the graves in the rock wall were those of the first wife of Jim Odom and 2 of their children who all died of cholera. He married 2nd Parthenia Nance, dau. of Joshua.

It seems apparent that burials in Nance Cem. include persons who died in a covered wagon while passing through the country. However, we believe the graves in the rock walled enclosure must be earlier burials. Land records show Joshua Nance rec'd patent to NE $\frac{1}{2}$ Sect. 36 from U.S. Govt. 3-26-1863. The obit. of Joshua Nance in the Girard Press of 3-19-1885 states that he was born 7-11-1807 in Ky.; to Ill. 1830; to Lincoln Twp., Crawford Co. Kans. 1865; one of the first county commissioners and chairman of the board. Only 2 of the 4 graves marked with rocks have dates. "M.H." definitely died 1859. "W.H." may have died 1852 or 1859, not clear. Since Joshua Nance did not come here until 1865, he could not have given permission for those burials, according to the above stories. Mrs. Simpson appears to be correct that the 4 burials were there before Joshua arrived.

The mortality schedule of the 1860 Cen. of Bourbon Co. (which included this area up to 1867) shows one Melvin? Hale age 1, born Ill., died Oct. 1859 after illness of 7 days, cause of death unknown. This might be the "M.H. 1859", but only circumstantial evidence.

John Nance July 21 1838 Dec 26 1905
Mary J. his wife Dec 3 1844 Nance

(A stone wall about 2 ft. high surrounds a lot containing 4 graves. The graves are marked with field rocks, and 3 of them have initials scratched on, two of which also have dates. See notes about this burial ground under explanation of Nance Cem. Copied N to S:)

W. H. 1859? (may be 1852?)

M. H. 1859 (clear)

E. J. (no date)

(rock, no initials visible)

(small shaft, finger pointing up) Hallie dau of W. D. & J. Nance
born Sept 17 1888 died Apr 14 1894

(fallen) Joshua Nance born July 11 1807 died Mar 6 1885
Dear Father rest in quiet sleep While friends in sorrow o'er thee weep.

(granite hdst) Thomas H. Nance Oct 8, 1854 Jan 18 1927

(broken) Elizabet wife of Joshua Nance born July 9 1813 died Apr 15 1883.
Dear Mother rest in quiet sleep While friends in sorrow o'er thee weep.

(lamb) Eva E. dau of J. D. & P. H. Odom born Sept 3 1886 died Jan 29 1888
Lone is the house and sad the home Since thy sweet smile is gone.
But Oh! a brighter home than ours In heaven is now thine own.

(lg. granite) Farmer A. J. Farmer Jan 7 1832 Jan 13 1915 Catherine Farmer
June 24 1841 May 17 1890 Our dear loved ones are gone.

(footstones to above, "Father" and "Mother")

Zachary son of A. D. & S. R. Nance born Sept 21 1881 died Dec 4 1889

John Farmer 1872-1959 (Note: Mrs. Simpson says most recent burial)

Douglas

(sunken place)

(lg. granite) Nance Amos D. Oct 1842 Nov 1906 Della Nov 1876 Oct 1900
Douglas S. Oct 1886 Feb 1904

(vault) Sarah Nance 1854-1941

Duggie D. son of J. & L. Farmer born July 16 1889 died Dec 31 1891
Thee is gone but not forgotten. (footstone: D.D.F.)

(dove design) Margret G. dau of S. E. & J. Farmer born Mar 12 1892 died
July 16 1893 Beautiful, lovely, she was but given
A fair bud to earth to blossom in heaven.

Charles Lucas born July 12 1822 died (blank)
Sarah wife of Charles Lucas born Sept 4 1829 died Sept 4 1899

A father and mother from us is gone
A voice we loved is stilled
The place is vacant in our home
That never can be filled.

(note her age exactly 70)

Lucas

(6' stone) Amy J. wife of E. P. Wiley born Oct 26 1835 died Feb 4 1894 Wiley

(6' stone) E. P. Wiley born Mar 22 1836 died July 19 1904 Wiley

A. D. Dearing 1875-1952

(granite) Dearing Bertha M. Dearing died Oct 8 1903 aged 25 ys. 10 ms. & 11 ds.

A precious one from us has gone
A voice we loved is stilled.
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.

Jonah Dearing born May 13 1891 died Aug 18 1892

(granite) Dearing In memory of Mother Nancy E. wife of J. W. 1857-1936

(6' stone) J. W. Dearing born Aug 16 1859 died Dec 17 1891

Farewell my wife and children all
From you a father Christ doth call
Mourn not for me it is in vain
To call me to your sight again.

(this stone on a lot with stone curbing:)

(design of finger pointing up) Gone Home
born Aug 25 1869 died Nov 20 1888

Lydia F. wife of J. H. Richert

Sleeping in heaven

Rest Lydia rest in quiet sleep. While friends in sorrow o'er thee weep

(granite) Watkins John Watkins 1835-1888 Sarah A. his wife 1838-1925 (Note: Th

Squire H. Watkins Mar 19 1867 Apr 23 1893

(were great-grandparents of M
Hubert Simpson; Squire was
their son & d. of appendicitis)

Rock with another rock on top.

(rock with inscription scratched on it:) H. H. Nickell

Grover C. son of W. F. & M. D. Willits July 12 July 20 1909

2 metal mortuary markers, no names.

m.m.m. by rock

sunken spot, apparently a grave, no stone

(fallen double stone:) Gertrude R. dau of W. S. & D. M. Mitchell
died Mar 24 1896 aged 1 yr 10 ms & 2 ds. Glorindia M. dau of R. & C.
Filkins died Mar 4 1896 aged 1 yr 5 ms & 15 ds.
Our darling ones hath gone before
To greet us on the blissful shore.

Our little Mary dau of F. A. & E. C. Shaffer born Aug 6 1895. died May 21 1896

Her dimpled hands are folded o'er her pure and sinless breast
Like some sweet rosebud crushed at morn, she lieth now at rest.

(a brick may mark a grave)