Pearl Webb Cemetery Newsletter

Designed by: Paul Sullivan Winter 2011 http://www.so-ky.com/cem/hartcem/p/pearlwebb/index.htm

History & Facts: By June Burks

Approximately five years ago, the Pearl Webb Cemetery Organization was approached and asked if they would agree to accept the responsibility of caring for the additional cemetery - Old Gilead Cemetery. Recognizing that many members, of the same local families, had loved ones buried in both cemeteries; the Pearl Webb Cemetery group agreed to accept this added responsibility. This cemetery consists of about one acre of land and 89 known grave sites. With the poor, unkempt condition it was in at the time, it was a big responsibility to accept. They immediately took over mowing and caring for the cemetery.

Gilead Church and burial grounds is located only a few hundred yards to the south of the city limits of Canmer, Kentucky on Hwy. 31-E and the intersection of the Gilead-Fairview Road. With the much larger community cemetery, Pearl Webb Cemetery, located west of Canmer on the Boyds Knob Road.

This is one of the oldest burial grounds in our community. The first known burial (March 24, 1851) at this cemetery was that of a child, little Charlie Burch, a 21 day-old baby of G. B. and Susan Burch. This couple lost three more children; all four within a ten year period and all buried here. The

cemetery was started before Gilead Church was built in 1860. The land for the church and burial ground was donated by a Mr. Reynolds. In the booklet, "A History of Old Gilead Church House," by Eugenia Blakey Hayes (prepared for the 100th Anniversary of the church, 1850-1960), she told of the land being donated by a Mr. Reynolds who owned many acres. This land was to be used for a church to be built upon, along with a cemetery. There had been a small log structure built at this location used for worship services prior to the current building.

Several years ago, with the aging and dwindling Gilead Church membership, the church closed its doors and soon the church cemetery became very overgrown and in poor condition. Mr. Bill Rutledge of Canmer had several members of his family buried there many years ago, so he took on the sole responsibility of cleaning the cemetery. With only a few hand tools, an axe, a briar hook, and etc., he began the difficult slow task. This took several weeks, but Mr. Rutledge did an excellent job. For some time, he would mow or have someone mow the cemetery. Soon, Mr. Rutledge's health began to decline. When he was no longer able to care for the cemetery, once again it became very overgrown and in poor condition. Over the years, many of the stones had become broken and either buried in the ground or piled up so mowing could be done.

Recently, some local citizens who are interested in restoring old cemeteries took on the task of restoring this cemetery. With a lot of prodding and digging and searching, many broken pieces of headstones were found. The job of putting the pieces together was much like putting a puzzle together. But, with special glue and lots of hard work, they were able to repair and erect approximately 40 stones. With the help of a list, which had been compiled and acquired from Mr. Cecil Riggs many years ago, they began to identify graves, row by row, and erected grave markers in their proper place. (There are six known Civil War soldiers buried there. We will be featuring them in a future issue of the newsletter.)

After spending several Saturday afternoons and many hours of hard work, the old cemetery began to take on a new look. When driving down Hwy. 31-E or coming out the Gilead-Fairview Road, one can easily see the difference and take pride once again in this very old neighborhood cemetery!

The group of workers who restored the grave markers and did the cleaning of the stones and grounds includes Teddy and Vickie Dillard, Larry and Jan Hedgepeth, and Jean Hedgepeth. Thanks to the volunteers, the community can once again be proud of this cemetery which is the final resting place of descendants of the early pioneer families who came, settled this land, and reared their families here.



Photo by: John Clay Rogers

President's Desk:

By: Larry Rogers

As our cemetery continues to grow in members, I would like to suggest, if your family plot or plots does not already have corner markers, to think about purchasing some. I am now the primary person that designates burial plots, and it sure makes it a lot easier when family plots have permanent corner markers, especially in the old part of the cemetery.

If you decide to do this, be sure to have me or some other board member present, when the markers are installed to ensure proper placement. See our ad page for monument makers, who I'm sure will be glad to assist your with this project.

I can be contacted at the below information, if you have any questions:

Larry Rogers, Board President 3298 North Jackson Highway Canmer, KY 42722 (270) 528-3818

Treasurer's Desk: By: Brenda Dudderar

The holidays are approaching, so it's PWC newsletter time again. I want to thank all of you who have agreed to receive your newsletter by e-mail. Last spring, I had only four people to respond with their e-mail addresses. I'm happy to say that number has grown to eighteen this fall.

Again, your generous donations paid for another mowing season. We had a couple, who delivered a vault for a burial this summer from Somerset, they said they had made deliveries all over Kentucky and they thought Pearl Webb was one of the most beautiful and well-kept cemeteries they had visited.

We can always use help at the cemetery. There are many jobs to be done and it is all volunteer work. If you ever want to help, please let us know. We also need help Memorial Day weekend, if you are available. I've mentioned this before, but you meet the nicest people and hear some wonderful stories concerning Canmer and the cemetery. We have even met long lost relatives and some we didn't even know we were related to.

We want to thank you once again for your generosity. Our savings are not earning much at all anymore, due to the low interest rates, so your donations are needed and appreciated.

We also want to thank our sponsors. Without them, we would not be able to afford to send our newsletters out.

Persons buried at Pearl Webb since the last newsletter: Randall W. Buckner:

Born: September 9, 1941 Died: May 25, 2011

Billy Whisman

Born: May 8, 1931 Died: June 22, 2011

William Harvey "Billy" Lane

Born: June 17, 1932 Died: September 24, 2011

William Oliver "W.O." Buckner

Born: January 12, 1912 Died: October 8, 2011

Leonard "Joe" Jaggers

Born: November 16, 1926 Died: November 9, 2011

Secretary's Desk: By: Peggy Sue Avery

Since there will not be another newsletter before our annual board meeting, we encourage anyone interested in the cemetery and the upkeep of the cemetery to make plans to attend the meeting. It will be held, Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 6:00 PM at the Canmer Baptist Church in Canmer, Kentucky. Your support, help, and input is always appreciated and welcomed.

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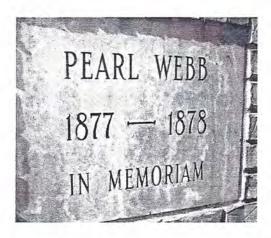
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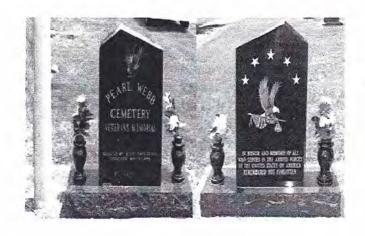
Pearl Webb Cemetery c/o Brenda Dudderar, Treasurer 1945 North Jackson HWY Hardyville, KY 42746 Phone: 270-528-5042



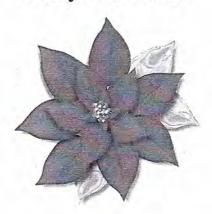
Newsletter Editor's Desk: By: Paul Sullivan

As discussed earlier in this newsletter, it would be a great financial help to the cemetery, if the newsletter could be e-mailed to you.

To be able to receive the newsletter by e-mail you will have to have the program Adobe Reader. Other programs may or may not open the file, so I wanted to mention this. Most computers have some version of Adobe Reader on them. The newsletter will be sent as a PDF file.



Merry Christmas



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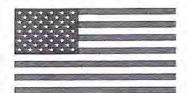
Owner: Erik Priddy

Note from Pearl Webb Cemetery Board:

We greatly appreciate our sponsors on this page. Without them, the newsletter would not be possible.

Please do business with these people whenever possible. Tell them you appreciate their support to Pearl Webb Cemetery!

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