Elijah Graves House Cemetery
Yanceyville, North Carolina

Set back off Highway 62/86 east of Yanceyville, North Carolina, just before the intersection with Highway 86 Bypass is the house built by Solomon Graves (1766-1830) around 1799. In 1820, Solomon Graves (who moved to Georgia around 1819) sold the house and associated land to his nephew, Azariah Graves (1776-1837). Azariah never married, and left the property to his beloved younger brother, Elijah Graves (1778-1855), also a bachelor. Later, the property was left to another Elijah Graves, a nephew of the older Elijah Graves. Accordingly, the house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is referred to as the Elijah Graves House. The house is on the south side of the road and has a family cemetery to the east between the highway and the house. Set forth below is a partial inventory of the headstones found in that cemetery September 2005. All information and photographs are courtesy of the owners of the Elijah Graves House and the Caswell County Historical Association. This site (house and cemetery) is not open to the public.

1. Captain William Graves
2. Ann L. Graves
3. Mrs. Polly Mebane
4. General Barzillai Graves
5. Mary T. Graves
6. Azariah Graves, Esquire
7. Elijah Graves, Sr.
8. Mrs. Elizabeth Graves
9. Delilah Miles
10. Abner Miles
11. Elizabeth Graves Burke (preparations only)
12. Charles Bidwell Farrar

Mentioned but Not Interred: James L. Graves
1. Capt. William Graves
   Died: 25 December 1845
   Aged 65 Years 1 Month 28 Days
2. Ann L. Graves
   Wife of Capt. William Graves
   Born: 5 January 1794
   Died: 28 October 1857
3. Mrs. Polly Mebane  
   Born: 15 January 1792  
   Died: 3 February 1846  

   Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord
4. General Barzillai Graves
   Died: 10 October 1850
   Aged: 68 Years 5 Months 24 Days
5. Mary T. Graves  
Second Wife of General Barzillai Graves  
Died: 15 July 1854  
Aged: About 68 Years

NO PHOTOGRAPH
6. Azariah Graves, Esquire
   Born: 1 November 1776
   Died: 1 May 1837
Sacred
In the memory of
AZARIAH GRAVES Esq.
Born Nov. 1, 1770.
Died May 1, 1857.
"In hopes that the hidden work of God"

Sacred
In the memory of
AZARIAH GRAVES Esq.
Born Nov. 1, 1770.
Died May 1, 1857.
"In hopes that the hidden work of God"
7. Elijah Graves, Senior  
Died: 29 October 1855  
Aged: 76 Years 10 Months 21 Days
ELIJAH GRAVES

Died
Oct. 29, 1855
Aged
70 Yrs. 10 Mos. 21 Days.
8. Mrs. Elizabeth G. Graves
Consort of James L. Graves
Died: 17 February 1847
Aged: 34 Years 5 Months 12 Days
Sacred

to the memory of

Mrs. Elizabeth G. Graves,
consort of James L. Graves,
who departed this life Oct. 21, 1844,
aged 41 years 5 months and 12 days.

Rest in peace that gentle spirit

Throned above.

Souls like thine with God inherit

Life and Love.

The endearing virtues of her who lies

beneath this slab have passed away,
yet they are not and cannot be forgotten
by him who offers this humble tribute to the memory of a dear wife.
9. Delilah Miles
7 September 1784 – 13 April 1848
To the memory of
The Christian Wife and Mother
Sweet be thy sleep and glorious thy
10. Abner Miles  
Died: 16 October 1856  
Aged: 64 Years
11. Elizabeth (Betsy) Graves Burke  
1926 –  
Wife of Charles Bidwell Farrar  
(1925-1997)  
Between 1969 – 1985 They Restored Elijah Graves’ House C. 1799  
Their Ashes Are Buried On This Hallowed Ground.
ELIZABETH GRAVES BURKE
1926
WIFE OF
CHARLES BIDWELL FARRAR
1925 — 1997

BETWEEN 1969 — 1985
THEY RESTORED ELIJAH GRAVES HOUSE
C. 1799

THEIR ASHES ARE BURIED
ON THIS HALLOWED GROUND.
Notes on those interred in this Graves Family Cemetery:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Captain William Graves</td>
<td>Son of John Herndon Graves and Ann (Nancy) Talbot Slade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann L. Graves</td>
<td>Wife of Captain William Graves. Daughter of General Azariah Graves and sister of Calvin Graves. She was the second wife of Captain William Graves. Their home was the Graves-Florance-Gatewood House, which now houses the Richmond-Miles History Museum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Polly Mebane</td>
<td>Youngest daughter of John Herndon Graves and Ann (Nancy) Talbot Slade. She was the second wife of James Mebane who survived her and married a third time. They had no children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary T. Graves</td>
<td>This possibly is the second wife of General Barzillai Graves, Mary Thomas (Marshall) Royal. She was Mary Thomas Marshall, and the widow of a Mr. Royal from Virginia. She was from Halifax, Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abner Miles</td>
<td>Second husband of Delilah Graves. He was Postmaster at Yanceyville in 1838; also Register of Deeds for Caswell County. Their home was a large frame house on Main Street in Yanceyville. Later, it was the property of Julius Johnston, but now has been demolished (as of 1974).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are other graves in this cemetery that were never marked. The second Elijah Graves, son of William Graves and Isabella Graves, and his wives (Eliza Gunn and Mary Crump) probably are buried there.

However, the third Elijah Graves (son of Elijah Graves and Mary Crump), who died in the 1920s, is buried at a church near Semora, North Carolina, near the home of his niece, Irene Brandon. He died in that home. The ground was covered with snow, so the family was unable to get his body to the Graves family cemetery in Yanceyville, North Carolina.

There probably are additional tombstones, as well.

The will of Azariah Graves (1 Nov 1776 – 1 May 1837) (Book N, page 59) shows that he selected the spot for the cemetery and was the first to be buried there. In his will, he asked that his brothers and sisters be buried with him in the family cemetery, if they desired. Two sisters and three brothers were buried there beside Azariah, all the siblings that remained in Caswell County, except Ann (Nancy) Graves, who married Bartlett Yancey, Jr., and is buried along side her husband in the Yancey family cemetery at the Bartlett Yancey, Jr., house on Highway 158 in the western portion of Yanceyville.

The Milton Spectator of July 1837 reported: “Funeral of Azariah Graves at his home near Yanceyville, July 10 – preached by Rev. John Kerr.” His funeral was four months after his death, which was not unusual.

Much of the foregoing is attributed to a June 9, 1974, analysis of this cemetery prepared by Katharine Kerr Kendall.

January 2006

© All Rights Reserved
Caswell County Historical Association, Inc.