

## INTRODUCTION TO SULPHUR SPRINGS MEMORIAL CEMETERY OLD BAILEYTON ROAD

The Sulphur Springs Memorial Cemetery began as a Morrison Family graveyard. Although the earliest readable tombstones in this cemetery date back to the 1860s, family members have been buried here for well over 150 years. As was common practice, and actually required under North Carolina law, “plantation owners” were required to set aside land on their farms as a “public burial ground”.

John Morrison, the patriarch of this family, arrived years before Tennessee Statehood in what would later become Greene County, when he purchased a four hundred acre land grant from North Carolina. The area was sparsely populated and called Locust Springs.

Over the generations, the Morrison family produced several well-respected Ministers. Elijah Morrison, the son of the patriarch, John, was one of the founders of the Big Lick Creek Methodist Church dedicated on May 4, 1826. The original log structure was moved some years later to a nearby location with a black and yellow sulphur springs. The springs gave rise to the present name of the Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church and the nearby Sulphur Springs Memorial Cemetery. The Memorial Cemetery has no legal affiliation with the Church and operates through a separate Cemetery Association with its own Officers and Board of Directors which include present day Morrison descendants.

A beautiful new frame Church erected in 1912 was in use for over 90 years and would be still in use today had not a random act of arson in 2003 felled the stately structure. Although Sulphur Springs UM Church has no legal affiliation with the Memorial Cemetery of the same name, it somehow seems appropriate to show the magnificent, early 20<sup>th</sup> century Church building where local residents came for many years to worship and for whom many rest for eternity in the nearby Memorial Cemetery.



### References:

(1) Historic Greene County, pages 248-249, and page 384

(2) Ms. June Pinkston, a Morrison descendant and Board Member of the Cemetery Association