

INTRODUCTION TO MOHAWK (WISECARVER) CEMETERY

This cemetery is a community burial ground for the surrounding Mohawk area. This Community is in the extreme western part of Greene County. Some areas are within only a couple of miles from Hamblin County. Local residents often find it more convenient and quicker to do business in Morristown as opposed to driving to Greeneville.

The Mohawk Cemetery is not all that old. The first burial in the Cemetery was in 1903 which was established on the farm of John Samuel Wisecarver (1881-1941), who deeded the land for a public cemetery. Prior to the creation of the Community cemetery, many residents of early times were simply buried in Family Graveyards on their farms as did the Wisecarver Families who are buried in the Wisecarver-Bible and Wisecarver-Scot graveyards.

The Mohawk Community began to develop when the railroad bridge over Lick Creek was built just prior to the Civil War. The railroad brought life to the growing Community. It also brought death to some local residents. Had it not been for this railroad bridge, the Civil War tragedy known as the Lick Creek Bridge Burnings would never have occurred; thus sparing the lives of fathers, sons and husbands who carry the surnames of Harmon, Haun, Fry and Hinshaw. Some of these surnames you will find in Mohawk Cemetery. In a book on the incident, A Tragedy at "Pottertown", by Mr. Donahue Bible, he says nearly 20 children were left fatherless.

In Olden Times in Greene County, Volume 2, written by Harry B. Roberts, Mr. Roberts describes the early Town of Mohawk as a "railroad village". The coming of the railroad meant jobs, and the railroad brought new people into the Community. There was a train depot, a blacksmith shop, a lumber and grist mill, pottery manufacturing, village stores and merchants, boarding houses, and more than one proprietor whose business was selling "liquid refreshments" to those who "came and went" with the railroad. The area had grown to such an extent a local post office was established about 1880. The first Post Office was called "Pane" (as to the selection of the name, no one knows), which was later changed to Mohawk.

Schools and Churches also sprang up, including the Mohawk Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Any introduction to the Mohawk Cemetery would be grossly remiss for not mentioning the name of Mrs. Ethel Myers Davis Saville (1890-1999) who is buried in the Cemetery. Ethel was the Church pianist for ninety years. She passed away one day after her 109th birthday. Ethel may be the longest-lived person in the history of Greene County. She was greatly admired and loved by all who knew her.

References:

Olden Times in Greene County, Volume 2, by Harry B. Roberts, pages 58-62, which includes some wonderful historic photographs.

Tragedy at "Pottertown" November-December 1861, by Donahue Bible