

EARLY CEMETERIES

BY FLORENCE W. SILLERS

We find that the cemeteries of Bolivar County have no great historical value in relation to the early settlers of the county. Great distances of primeval forests divided the settlements, and private burial grounds were universally used. Very few stones are found in these early burial places, which seems to prove that the planters considered these only temporary resting places for their dead.

Almost all of these early cemeteries were upon Indian mounds, that are scattered over the entire county. These mounds insured safety from overflows that almost annually threatened this Delta country. Some of them were large enough to be used by the friends and neighbors of the owners for their burial grounds also. Such a mound is owned by Mrs. Alice R. Blanchard near Perthshire, and there are many graves and some stones marking the resting places of early citizens of the northern part of the county.

General Charles Clark, his family, and friends are buried on a mound on his "Doro" plantation, a few miles below Beulah. A mound on the Glenwood plantation, close to Beulah, is the family graveyard of the Gaydens and Sillersses, and their friends. A stone bearing the date 1859 and the name of John V. Lobdell, pioneer citizen, stood many years on a mound on his plantation, "Leesland", and now has been placed in the Beulah cemetery.

On a mound upon the plantation of Judge Joseph McGuire, near Mound City, east of Beulah, Judge McGuire and his wife are buried; and there is a stone bearing the name of Joseph McGuire, dated 1858, a son of Judge Joseph McGuire.

At the western edge of Egypt Ridge is a mound once owned by the Noble family, upon which stand the grave-stones of that family.

On Egypt Ridge, above the overflows of the antebellum period, is the family graveyard of the Burruses, used by all their friends and neighbors; in this are some old stones, among which are those of William B. Cook and Judge Burrus, pioneer settlers of the county. In the lower end of the county, stones bearing the name of Alexander are on a mound. Other mounds used for private cemeteries, are found in all parts of the county, and there are some stones upon them. At the old Prentiss cemetery the stones have all disappeared, if there were ever any there, it being outside of the levee since the 60's and subject to yearly overflow.

The Beulah cemetery was established in 1868 upon land donated by Colonel F. A. Montgomery, and upon which was built a com-