

West Virginia Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc.

Cemetery Reading

Cemetery Name:	Smith	 <p>Click on images above to enlarge</p>
County:	Putnam	
USGS Quad:	Hamlin	
Coordinates:	38.3363°N -82.0383°W Map	
Maintained by:	M.F. Conley & Family (per 4/2007)	
Land owner:	Mrs. Orpha (Smith) Billups	
Date added to WVCPA register:	April 2007	
Condition of cemetery**:	Good (April 2007)	
Accessibility:	The cemetery is located on Sycamore Road south of Hurricane off Rt. 34 (see map coordinates above for exact location). The cemetery is easily accessible.	

** Condition of cemetery as observed on the given date - may not be representative of care at other times of the year

Scale: Excellent - Good - Fair - Poor - Abandoned

Last Name:	First Name:	Born:	Died:	Inscription:	Photo:	Source:
Brown	Mack	13 September 1870	10 January 1842			
Collins	Abigail Warner	ca. 1809	April 1876	<i>[Wife of John Collins - see addition source information below]</i>		

Excerpt from a 1948 Fizer family history c ompilation by Sylvia Rice Sowards:

"...Well, later on she was visiting relatives in Ceredo, W. Va. And was stricken with heart attack while she and a little girl were watching boats sail up and down the Ohio River, so Uncle Ben Griffith tells me. This is in the month of April, 1876 while Uncle Ben and his mother were living at the old Buck Thompson place now owned by Uncle Lum Fizer, and Grandfather Mose was then living at the Charley Burdette farm then owned by the Kirtley's. He got Cal Thompson, (Frank's father) a minister to meet the train at Hurricane and bring the corpse out to Sycamore for burial at the old cemetery above Nye or below the Mattie Smith place.

Grandfather Mose was following the wagon. Uncle Peter Fizer was riding on the wagon with Mr. Thompson, Uncle Ben's mother, Mrs. Griffith inquires of grandfather, "Who is the corpse?" He advised her that it was his grandmother, Mrs. Abigail Collins. They proceeded on their way to the cemetery, stopping for a short time at her son's home, Peter Fizer, then living at the Clay Mitchell place. That will be 71 years ago this April. Her body was laid to rest with no mark or trace of her grave established."

Neil	Evaline (Smith)	17 December 1862	12 November 1941	"Aged 79 Yrs 10 Mos 25 Ds" <i>[Wife of Charley Neil, dau. of James & Anna Lakeman Smith]</i>		
Pratt	Mary Melvina	29 November 1849	11 November 1882	"Wife of Joseph A. Pratt" "Aged 32Ys. 11Ms. 13ds" "Meet Me In Heaven" "How ___ the ___" <i>[rest is illegible in photo]</i>		

Smith	Almeda		10 August 1929	[Dau. of James and Anna Lakeman Smith - 82 (83?) years of age (not legible)]	
Smith	Oat		31 October 1925	[ca. 46 years of age]	
Along with several unmarked graves, and graves marked with fieldstones.					

Comments:

Dates in **Red** are not inscribed on the tombstone and have either been calculated based on death date or are as a result of research on the individual.

WVCPA thanks our contributor and cemetery clean-up volunteer, Melissa Fizer Conley and her family for their photos of this cemetery and dedicated interest in its care. We look forward to more information and photos for this cemetery as they become available. Thank you, Melissa!

April 2009 update from Melissa:
 "We found the headstone for Mary Melvina Pratt, wife of Joseph, and we have cleaned the stone & reset it. Smith looks like a more proper cemetery now! Unfortunately, we continue to clean trash (of ALL kinds) from the site. I hope that the tombstone will register with folks, I know the small sign I had placed didn't seem to do the trick."

Photo Gallery of the Rescue of this Cemetery
 (click on images below to view in larger format)

	<< The cemetery, as seen from Sycamore Road - Rt. 34 S. runs parallel at the bottom of the hill - the photo on the left was taken before the Conley family started the clean-up efforts. The same area after much of the clean-up work was done >>	
	<< Again, before the clean-up... ...and afterwards: what a phenomenal improvement! Well-done, Conley and Fizer families! >>	
	<< Another "before" photo Brandy Bird Fizer, hard at work with the trash >>	
	<< Brandy's husband Dana, manning the chain saw The Conley family on their way home for a well-deserved break after all their hard work >>	



<< Smith Cemetery hasn't looked this good in a very, very long time!

Melissa putting some elbow grease into the winter's pile of leaves and brush covering the cemetery - great job, Melissa! >>



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