

Stephenson Family Cemetery Inscriptions DeKalb County, GA

JOHN STEPHENSON FAMILY CEMETERY
DEKALB CO. GA

This cemetery is off Evans Mills Rd in DeKalb County. Turn into a new subdivision onto a road called Belmont Ridge Dr. Turn onto Belmont Ridge Circle which is a cul-de-sac. Behind the houses is a bluff with several trees. The cemetery is in a fenced area there.

The transcription begins at the rear, closest to Evans Mill Rd. going from left to right.

ROW A:

collapsed box tomb -- no name	field stone
field stone	field stone
field stone	box tomb - no name
box tomb - no name	new marker: The Family of John STEPHENSON 1786 -1871 Susannah Peeler STEPHENSON 1792 - 1860 Mother Mary Waddel STEPHENSON 1741 - 1825 Other unidentified

ROW B:

eight field stones

transcribed by Dave and Mary West
August 1999

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Mary West
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Thomas Chawm - Apr. 29, 1971

Old Family Cemetery Restored

One of the very old family cemeteries of DeKalb County with hundreds of descendants of those buried there scattered throughout the county and the States, has been recently restored as much as possible.

This is the John Stephenson Cemetery, located on a high bluff on Evans Mill Road approximately four miles from the center of downtown Lithonia. It has been cleared of debris; the granite tombs which had fallen over in disarray have been restored to their proper positions; it has been enclosed by a chain link fence; and the cemetery is now identified by a new family marker bearing the

names to the known buried there. A majority of the graves now have no markers and cannot be identified.

This cemetery had been left in a state of neglect and decay for more years than living descendants of those buried there can remember. A majority of those now living were unaware of its existence.

Great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren of the late John Stephenson, whose family is interred there, became interested in the family plot during the past year and in recent months pooled efforts and resources to prevent its becoming extinct.

The new fence has a gate so relatives interested may go inside and have a try at deciphering names on the old granite slabs.

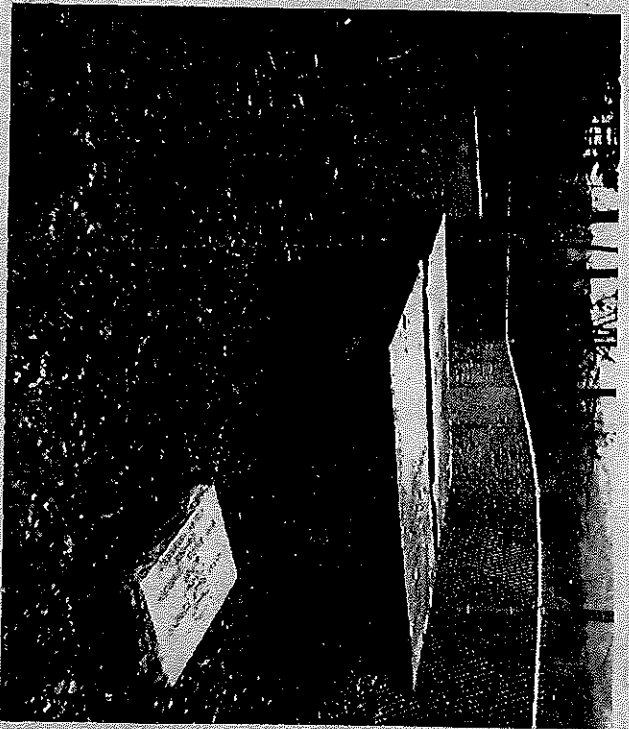
This John Stephenson's grandfather, who was also named John Stephenson, came to the States from Belfast Ireland in 1758. His father, Thomas Stephenson then age 3 crossed the ocean with his father and mother. They settled in North Carolina. John Stephenson was born in Wilkes County, Georgia in 1786, moving to Greene County in 1807. He came to DeKalb County in 1825 with his wife the former Susan Peeler, settling on Evans Mill Road, Lithonia. His mother, Mary Waddell Stephenson moved here with him and his family. She was buried in the family plot that same year. It is located across the road from the

family homestead.

He had a family of 9 sons and 3 daughters, three of whom died before maturity and are very likely buried there in unidentified graves. One moved to Tennessee, one to Texas, 2 to Carroll County, one to Clayton County, one to Henry County and the others remained in DeKalb. One of the sons, Moses R. Stephenson, reared his family of 11 in the Lithonia area in the Klondike community. His children were Henry, John, Joe, W. J., Sallie, Mrs. Judd Almond

and after his death married Mr. Robson), Tom, Anne (Mrs. W. R. Park), Ben, Charlie, Lizzie (Mrs. Ed Evans,) and June. Many descendants of these are now living in Lithonia. There are also many in other sections of DeKalb and in Rockdale and Fulton Counties, with some scattered elsewhere.

The work done here has created interest in the family tree, and many descendants have climbed the steep slope in recent months to view the resting place of their early ancestors in DeKalb.



A partial view of the recently restored John Stephenson family cemetery, located on Evans Mill Road, Lithonia.

J

118

JOHN STEPHENSON FAMILY CEMETERY

Location: Evans Mill Road at Pole Bridge Creek.
Land Lot # 79, 16th District, DeKalb County,
Phillips' District.

Recorded Sept. 18, 1931.

Stephenson, John.

Sacred to the memory of
John Stephenson
born November 12th 1736
died January 20th
1871.

Aged 35 years, 2 months
& 8 days.

Stephenson, Susannah.

Sacred to the Memory of
SUSANNAH STEPHENSON
Born January 6th. 1792. died
August 11, 1860.
Was a member of the
Baptist Church 52 yrs.

Several other graves -
no inscribed markers.

Subj: **Re: DeKalb cemeteries**
Date: 7/5/99 10:04:32 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: DBishop102
To: WDMWEST

Mary -

The Stephenson cemetery is in the 16th District, land lot 79. To get to the cemetery -- get on Evans Mill Road between Browns Mill Road and Salem Road. Depending on what development may have changed the landscape since I was last there, the property was woods, and just north of Windermere Drive and south of Salem Road and Pole Bridge Creek. The property and cemetery are on the west side of Evans Mill (opposite from the Windermere side). There was a fire hydrant at the edge of Evans Mill (east side of the road), and at this point you had to climb up a 15 foot bank on the west side of the road to the cemetery, which is within 10 feet from the top of the bank (and Evans Mill Road).

The cemetery is chain-link fenced. None of the original stones have inscriptions. A marker was added (probably since 1950). I have the names and dates from the marker if you want it.

John Stephenson was my GGGGgrandfather, and had 12 children. Some of his descendants still live in DeKalb, including C.R. Stephenson, of Randolph Road in Tucker. John S. was the grandson of the immigrant from Northern Ireland who came to the U.S. in 1758. I have the family history.

Let me know if I can be of any help.
Dave Bishop

9-23-15

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every make impres-
sionable. They

No. 5 Moultrie street. Interment at Greenwood. Flowers in care of Harry G. Poole.

STEPHENSON—The friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Stephenson, Mrs. Ann Stephenson, of Seney, Ga.; Mr. L. M. Stephenson, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Rouden, of Ellenwood, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. Landrum, of Seney, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. George Stephenson, of Oklahoma; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stephenson, of Berner, Ga., are invited to attend the funeral of Mr. John T. Stephenson today (Thursday), September 23, 1915, at 3 p. m., from the chapel of H. M. Patterson & Son. The Rev. H. H. Jones will officiate. The remains will be taken Thursday morning at 7:45 to Ellenwood for interment. All members of the Improved Order of Red Men are cordially invited to attend.

Card of Thanks.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Milam and family and Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Pressly and family wish to thank their friends for their loving kindness and beautiful floral offerings during the illness and