

Shiloh Cemetery

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Yazoo's early churches

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SHILOH CEMETERY

A small frame building a Primitive Baptist church, stands today in historic Shiloh Cemetery, where rest many whose names are recorded in the State's religious, civic, educational and political progress.

The Treaties of Doak's Stand and Dancing Rabbit Creek had opened up a vast area and settlers swarmed into the new territory, following the removal of the Choctaw Indians. A number of families came from Natchez and Adams County and settled in the Free Run-Midway community where they purchased extensive land holdings. Prominent among these were the Chew and Grayson families and many of their friends.

William L. Chew died in Yazoo County on July 17, 1858, age 80 years, three months, seven days. A native of

Maryland, he lived for a number of years at Washington, Mississippi; which was at one time the capital of the Mississippi Territory. There he was an active member in the Methodist church that still stands today. He, and Beverly R. Grayson, are named as Trustees on a Deed to the property that is dated August 8, 1825.

Mr. Chew is buried in the Shiloh Cemetery. Also buried there is Beverly R. Grayson, Methodist Layman, who served as a Representative from Adams County 1820-1821, and as a Trustee of Centenary College. Spence M. Grayson, his nephew, married a daughter of Mr. Chew. An able attorney, he served as Senator from Yazoo County 1837-1839.

Frisby Chew, born April 7, 1808, died July 11, 1849. The

Yazoo Banner, published at Benton March 27, 1840 announced that "the funeral of Major Thomas H. Chew will be held at 11 o'clock at Chiolo Meeting House by the Rev. Byrd. Friends are invited." On June 19, it reported the death of "Mrs. Rebecca Chew, wife of William Chew on the 10th inst. in her 55th year."

Handsome stones mark the graves of the Robert N. Pearce family. Pearce Cross Roads Community was named for him. He owned many acres of land and was a merchant. During the War Between the States he served in Company 1, 3rd Mississippi Regiment. He married Miss Emily White.

On May 24, 1858 E.H. McGehee and his wife, Mary B. McGehee, of Wilkinson County, Mississippi deeded to William S. Grayson, Augustine Chew and Thompson Walker, Trustees of

the Methodist Episcopal church South, for \$1.00, four acres of land embracing the church and graveyard at Shiloh. Mr. McGehee, long active and generous in the advancement of Methodism, had served also as a Trustee of Centenary College.

It is interesting to note in Methodist Archives that the Rev. Beverly Carradine, a descendant of the Chew and Grayson families, and who was admitted on trial from the Yazoo Station in 1875 was honored in 1888 when Centenary College conferred on him a Doctor of Divinity Degree.

Bibliography—Deed Book U, page 627 Yazoo County Deeds. Methodism in the Miss. Conference by Cain, page 215 Shiloh Cemetery Records 1850 Census Yazoo Co. Methodism in the Miss. Conference by Jones Yazoo County Story

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