

The
REV. JAMES WAFAYETTE,
SR. D.D.
And Celia Ann (Powell) Blanks
Family
CC93.323

JAMES LAFAYETTE BLANKS was a Baptist Minister. Was pastor of Pace's Baptist Church at one time and they lived in the neighborhood. He was a member of the Second Regt. of Miss. Cavalry, CSA. (His sword is in the Masonic Lodge at Suqualena, Lauderdale County, Mississippi.) He served as a Pvt. in Company C. of this Regt. -- Company C. was known as Lauderdale Cavalry of Lauderdale County. He enlisted March 8, 1862, at Lauderdale.

FROM: Department of Archives and History - Jackson, Mississippi.

Company C --- surrendered at Citronell, Ala., May 4, 1865 and was parolled at Gainesville, Ala., May 14, 1865. (See copy of roster.)
 "12 - Blanks, Jas. Private Lauderdale Co., Miss."
 FROM photostat of Muster Roll - National Archives, Washington, D. C.

Celia Ann (Powell) Blanks - dtr of:

John Osbourn Powell III

B. November 29, 1793, in Newbern, Craven County, N.C.
 D. December 12, 1863, in Yantley, Choctaw County, Ala.

And Mary Sloan

B. February 25, 1795, in Chinquapin, Duplin County, N.C.
 D. July 5, 1874, in Yantley, Choctaw County, Ala.

Both buried Concord Baptist Church Cemetery, Yantley, Choctaw County, Ala.

They married - May 3, 1818, Yantley, Choctaw County, Ala.

The Marquess de LaFayette (1757-1834) was in America, 1777-1779, and made two trips, 1784 and 1824. Admiration for him was voiced especially by many people in 1824 and his name entered many a family Bible. He visited Georgia and Alabama on his trip in 1824. James Lafayette Blanks was born in 1825 - SO it is easily seen why he has Lafayette for a middle name.

"Lutie" (Smith) Blanks entered Jefferson Davis Soldier's home July 9, 1931 and at that time was 80 years of age indicating she was born in 1851. She died August 28, 1933, and was buried in Beauvoir Cemetery."
 FROM: Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis Shrine Records.

She was the widow of William Smith and had two known sons: Charlie, md. Nora Pierce and Willie md. Cora Williams. Elmer Smith who ran "The Spot" here in Meridian for years, is a son of Willie and Mrs. Nolie Glascock is a daughter,

1860 CENSUS RECORD - LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI - Beat No. 3 - Daleville - p. 89 - No. 627/607

J. L. BLANKS	Age 34	Farmer	Born in Georgia
Ann C.*	27	Dom. Bus.	N.C.
John	5		Miss.
William	3		Miss.
James	8/12		Miss.

(Don't understand the "Ann C." as her name was Celia Ann Powell)

SON OF WILLIAM HENRY, SR, AND NARCISSA (YOUNG) BLANKS

JHW

1.

JAMES LAFAYETTE BLANKS, SR.

B. January 3, 1825, in Georgia - probably Greene County.

D. May 30, 1896, in Lauderdale County, Mississippi

Buried - Suqualena Cemetery, Suqualena, Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

Married 1st.

DAUGHTER OF JOHN OSBOURN POWELL, III AND HIS WIFE, MARY SLOAN

CELIA ANN POWELL

*B Apr 19 1833
Chardy Dublin Co, NC
D. SEPT. 22, 1895
Lauderdale Co, Miss
Lombston
was 18th
Powell mtd
shows 20th*

B. ~~September 20, 1833, in Cherty, Duplin County,~~ North Carolina ~~D. Sept 19, 1933~~

Buried - Hickory GGrove Baptist Church Cemetery, Lizelia, Lauderdale County, Mississippi

Married - October 8, 1853, - Yantley, Choctaw County, Alabama

CHILDREN - (All born in Lauderdale County, Mississippi)

1. John Powell Blanks, b. December 3, 1854, ~~died November 21, 1932,~~ Lauderdale County, Mississippi. Buried in Suqualena Cemetery, Suqualena, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. He did not marry. Worked for GM&O Railroad. There is no marker on his grave.

* 2. William David Blanks, b. September 1, 1857. (See Later)

* 3. James Lafayette, Blanks, Jr., b. December 8, 1859. (See Later)

* 4. Jefferson Franklin Blanks, b. February 17, 1862. (See Later)

5. Robert Allen Blanks, b. June 10, 1865, ^{d. Oct. 22, 1865, age 1 yr 5 1/2 days} died very young, and is buried beside his mother in Hickory Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Lizelia, Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

* 6. Laural Matilda Blanks, b. ~~June 10, 1863, (Lauderdale County,~~ Mississippi, d ^{Aug. 12, 1870}

* 7. Mary Ann Eliza "Mollie" Blanks, b. August ~~12,~~ ^{7, 1875} 1817. (See Later)

Married 2nd.

AND WIDOW OF WILLIAM SMITH

LOUISE VICTORIA "LUTIE" (POOL) SMITH

B. 1851

D. August 28, 1933, in Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

Buried - Beauvoir Cemetery, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

Married - December 27, 1886 - Lauderdale County, Mississippi

Children: - None

*Wadsworth
appd to cause
Dec 21, 1886*

Continued next page

1970 CENSUS RECORD * LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI - Township 6

Page 117	Blanks, James L.	45	Born Ga.
	Celia A.	37	N.C.
	John P.	15	Miss.
	Wm. D.	12	Miss.
	James L. (Jr.)	10	Miss.
	Jefferson	8	Miss.

Pine Grove Baptist Marks 100th



O. S. Moore, Longtime Clerk At Pine Grove Baptist

—Photos By Jimmy Thompson

By JIMMY THOMPSON

On September 9, 1870 three ministers and a group of citizens gathered at Litchfield schoolhouse near Collinsville. The result of that meeting was the formation of Pine Grove Baptist Church, located a half mile to the east.

The centennial year will be celebrated today at Pine Grove Baptist Church, located four miles east of Collinsville with Sunday School at 10 a. m. and the worship service at 11. Training Union will be at 6:30 with the worship service at 7 p. m. Prayer meeting is held at the church at 8 on Wednesday night.

N. L. Clarke, for whom Clarke Junior College was named, J. L. Blanks and A. Gressett (the church's first pastor) were the ministers who established the church.

Present at the formation

were Joshua McLemore, C. N. Yarbrough, O. G. Brown, W. J. McNair, B. N. Williams, John Mosley, E. Mosley, John Wood, Mary E. McLemore, Sara P. Yarbrough, Rebecca Ann Ezelle and Julia Ezelle.

During the 100 years, 807 people have been baptized at Pine Grove.

A new church was built between 1908 and 1910 and the present building in 1952.

The celebration will include dinner on the grounds at 12:30 with an afternoon service beginning at 2 o'clock. Features of the affair will be the church history, recognition of former pastors, a message by a former pastor and the wearing of old fashioned clothes of a century ago.

But clothing was not the only difference between the old and the new.

On September 21, 1870

Joshua McLemore, O. G. Brown and C. N. Yarbrough were chosen for a committee to prepare "rules of decorum" for the church. On October 22 the committee asked for more time, which was granted.

On February 18, 1871 a brother was requested to attend the next regular meeting of the conference and answer to charges that he had been dancing.

On March 4 the brother appeared before the conference and said he had danced and that he was sorry. The church pardoned him.

At the July meeting a sister confessed to the charge that she had danced, and was pardoned.

On September 2, 1871 a brother was liberated to exercise in public. A sister's name was "withdrawn from the fellowship" of the church

because she had joined church which was not considered orthodox.

In October 1871 O. G. Brown was chosen as a deacon.

In July of 1872 two brothers admitted to having been drunk, saying that they were sorry and the church pardoned them.

For swearing or having "conduct unbecoming a Christian" the church usually ejected a brother or sister, lack of attendance often coupled with their transgression.

Mediated Differences

Another responsibility assumed by the early church was to mediate differences between members of the church, one such event occurring at the May 1, 1875 meeting.

These records were kept for the most part by one man and his son, who served as clerks of the church for approximately 95 years of the church's 100 year span.

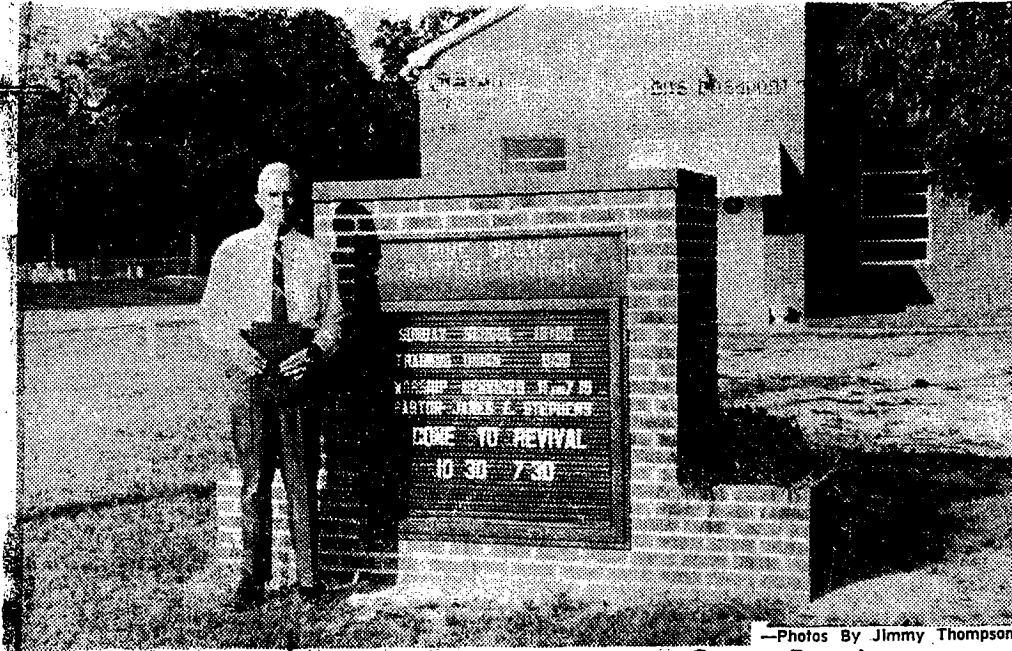
Joshua McLemore was the first clerk, leaving to help organize the Oak Grove church at Bonita about three years later.

W. G. H. Moore then became the clerk, keeping the church records for the next 55 years. His son, O. S. Moore then kept the record for the next 40 years.

Moore passed the clerk's job on to Steve Tucker about a year ago.

Rev. James E. Stephens, the present pastor, is the third Stephens to serve the Pine Grove church, which still stands in the approximate spot where it was first constructed a century ago.

Pine Grove Baptist Marks 100th



—Photos By Jimmy Thompson

O. S. Moore, Longtime Clerk At Pine Grove Baptist

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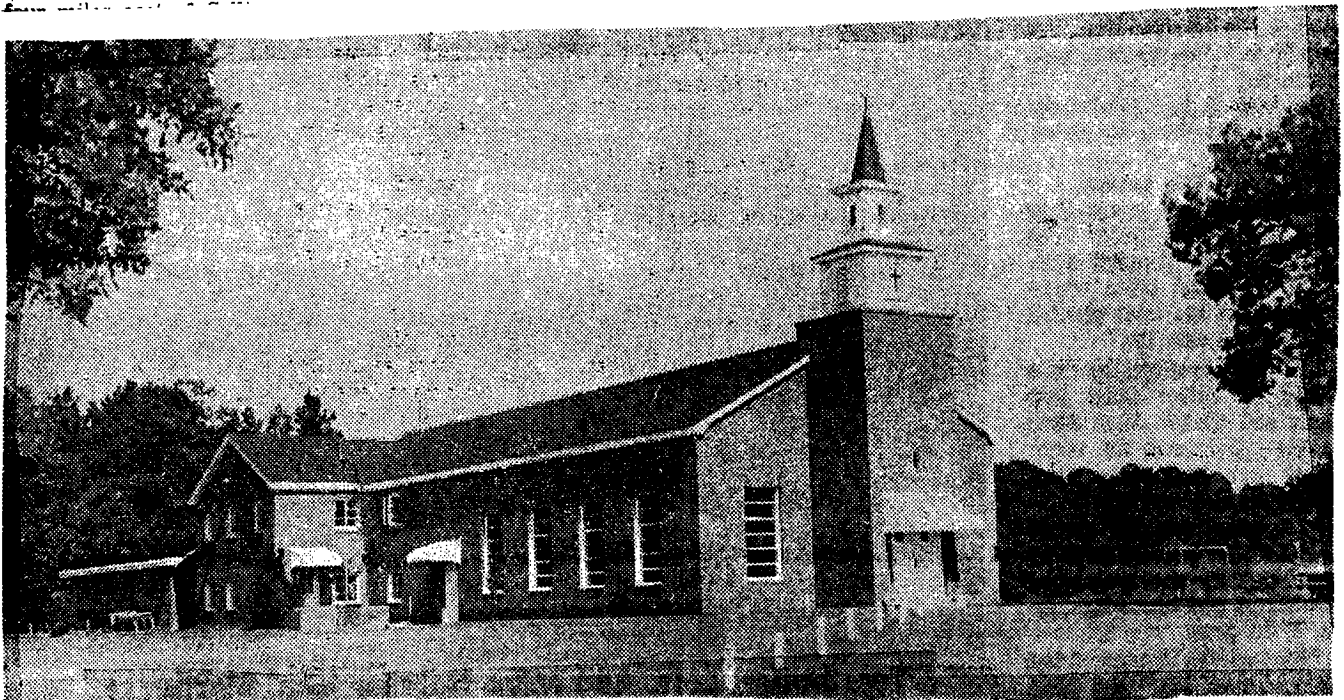
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W. G. H. Moore then



SECOND REGIMENT--CAVALRY

Forty-seventh in the consecutive list, called Forty-second in early rolls and Fourth in official reports.

Colonels--A. P. Mason, not confirmed; J. L. McCarty, James Gordon, Edward Dillon, assigned July 21, 1864.

Lieut. Colonel--James Gordon.

Majors--J. L. Harris, John J. Perry.

Adjutant--John A. Wiley, 1864-65.

Asst. Surgeons--Thomas Gaddis, 1862-65; J. M. Calhoun 1864-65.

Quartermaster--J. D. Wade, 1861-65.

Non-commissioned staff in December, 1864---T. H. Selby, Sergeant Major;

W. H. Brown, Quartermaster-Sergeant; A. McAlpine, Commissary Sergeant; J.G. Avery, Orderly; W. B. Anderson, Color Sergeant; B. J. Matheny, Bugler.

.....
Company C, Lauderdale Cavalry, of Lauderdale County, enlisted 8 March, 1862, at Lauderdale.

Captains-- W. V. Raney, William A. Rogers.

First Lieutenants--William A. Rogers, N. R. Carter.

Second Lieutenants--J. M. D. McElroy, J. P. Walker.

Third Lieutenant--S. J. Willis.

Twenty-Eighth Regiment--Cavalry.

Colonels--Peter B. Starke, Joshua T. McBee, Commissioned April 1, 1865.

Lieutenant Colonels--Samuel W. Ferguson, promoted Brigadier General; Edw. P. Jones commissioned May 10, 1863; S. S. Champion, commissioned April 1, 1865.

Majors--Edward P. Jones, captured at Franklin, Tenn., April 10, 1863;

Joshua T. McBee, commissioned, May 10, 1863; C. L. Johnson, commissioned

April 1, 1865.

Adjutant--S. H. Starke.

Quartermaster--R. H. Smith.

Commissary--James Hazlett.

Surgeons--R. B. Maury, C. R. Mayson, commissioned February 6, 1863.

Asst. Surgeons--W. S. Ward, W. T. Ward, commissioned May 6, 1862; L. M. Hays commissioned Nov. 16, 1864.

Original officers commissioned 24, Feb. 1862.

Starke was commanding brigade after 25 December, 1863--roll of February 1864.

.....
This regiment (28th) was organized early in 1862, for three years of war, extra to the requisitions upon the State for infantry. It is numbered consecutively with the infantry regiments. The original officers--Starke, Ferguson and Jones - were commissioned Feb. 24, 1862; the regiment was reported May 14 in camp at Jackson, where it was organized. Colonel Starke was a man of prominence, who had been the Whig candidate for Congress in 1846, to succeed Col. Jefferson Davis. He had organized a cavalry company in his home count, Bolivar, early in 1861. Samuel Wragg Ferguson, Lieut-Colonel, was a native of South Carolina, Graduate of West Point, who resigned a Second Lieutenantcy in the First Dragons, United States Army, to enter the Confederate service. As a Brigadier-General he was associated with Mississippi troops throughout the war. The first active service of the regiment was occasioned by the naval attack on Vicksburg, beginning in May, 1862. Five companies of Starke's Cavalry reinforced Gen. M. L. Smith, at Vicksburg, and were posted to watch the flanks along the Yazoo and below Wamenton on the Mississippi. In June the Secretary of War countermanded order Capt. W. H. Jackson, stationed on the Big Black River, should burn all cotton in reach, whether liable to fall into enemy's hands or not. Regiment reported 462 present, troops of Gen. M. L. Smith, Aug 27, 1862.

Later the regiment was at Camp Burrus, in Bolivar County. They operated along the river and in the swampy country, where many contracted fever. September, 436 present; 865 present and absent.

There is a Federal report of an expedition from the Missouri shore to Bolivar County and a skirmish with four companies of Bolivar County troops, near Totten's plantation, Coahoma County, August 2, 1862. September 14, part, at least, of the regiment was in a skirmish near Prentiss, Bolivar County; September 19 they attacked some transports at Niblett's landing on the Mississippi, opposite Island # 10. Thence they returned to Camp Burrus and from there moved to Panola. In October Colonel Starke was ordered, with his own and Major Blythe's command, to attack a Federal force opposite Helena, but no actions appears to have resulted.

Company I, Captain Johnson, was at Vicksburg in December, 1862, and took part in the Chickasaw Bayou campaign, while the remainder of the regiment, according to Federal reports, was engaged with Steele's expedition from Helena, in the vicinity of Panola, in the same month. In January, 1863, the regiment was assigned with Pinson's and Ballentine's Regiments, to the First (Cosby's) Brigade of Gen. W. T. Martin's Division of the cavalry army under General Van Dorn, about 7,500 strong, which made the campaign in Middle Tennessee early in 1863, supporting General Bragg's army, then on the Shelbyville line. Starke's Regiment moved from Okolona to Columbia, Tenn., in February, about 625 strong. They were present at the battle of Thompson's Station, March 5, but held in reserve; were in the skirmish with Minty's Cavalry at Thompson's Station, March 9, and actively engaged in the attack on Franklin, April 10. General Granger reported that the Fortieth Ohio Infantry, after a stubborn fight, "was finally forced to fall back through the town to the river, and it was followed by a part of the Twenty-eighth Mississippi Cavalry, under the command of Major Edward P. Jones. But few of the regiment who came into town returned." The regiment suffered a heavy loss in killed wounded and captured. In General Orders, April 10, 1863, General W. H. Jackson mentioned "the gallant and meritorious conduct of officers and men of the Twenty-eighth Mississippi Cavalry, in the charge upon Franklin today. When ordered to charge into town, they did so promptly at their swiftest speed, and although in the face of the enemy's batteries and houses lined with sharpshooters, they drove everything resistlessly before them and pushed their victorious columns to the bank of the Harpeth River, killing and wounding a considerable number of the enemy, and upon returning formed in good order in an open field in easy range and under the well-directed fire of the enemy's heavy guns. To show the danger to which they were exposed, attention is directed to the official report of killed, wounded and missing. The charge today into Franklin, under such adverse circumstances, finds no parallel in this war, and will embellish another page of the history of our country with the martial achievements and glory of Southern arms."

Van Dorn's campaign, during which he lost his life in a private affair, left Mississippi open to Grierson's raid and Grant's advance from Bruinsburg to Jackson and the Yazoo River. The Twenty-eighth, leaving Tennessee May 17, reached Mechanicsburg June 7, a march of about 400 miles. During the following operations Cosby's and Whitfield's (Texas) Brigades constituted the division of General W. H. Jackson. June 22, 1863, Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Wood, with Starke's Regiment, Major J. T. McBee commanding, and Adam's Regiment, Captain S. B. Cleveland commanding, attacked a detachment of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry under Major Parkell, which had been sent to blockade the road at Birdsong's Ferry on the Big Black. Parkell had with him one howitzer, which was posted at the head of a narrow lane, strongly fenced on each side, and repeated charges were made up this lane before the Federal force could be started and the gun captured. Wood reported 5 killed, 16 wounded and 1 missing, and that he took 33 prisoners.

Parkell reported 8 killed and 16 wounded, 4 mortally. Wood, in his report recorded that "the great gallantry and elan displayed by Major McBee and the officers and men of his command." This famous affair is known as the Battle of Bear Creek. Companies A and F, under Captain Clanton, were particularly distinguished. In his final report, General Pemberton mentioned Privates E. G. Walker and Charles McInroe, of Major W. H. Jackson's Cavalry, part of this regiment, as among those who carried dispatches through the Federal lines to or from General Johnston. July 4 the regiment moved from Mechanicsburg to Birdsong's Ferry, and as Johnston's army fell back to Jackson, they skirmished with Sherman's advance July 7, and fell back covering Johnston's retreat, skirmishing frequently and resisting a charge of cavalry at Clinton. Just before the evacuation of Jackson, July 16, they went to the Federal rear, and re-crossed Pearl River after the retreat of Johnston to Morton.

After the evacuation of Jackson by Sherman, the regiment was at or near Clinton until moved to Brownsville in September. October 10 detachments from Starke's and Wirt Adams' Regiments were attacked near Port Gibson by a force of Illinois and Wisconsin Cavalry, whose commanding officer reported 11 of the two regiments killed. October 14 McPherson's expedition set out from Vicksburg intending to go to Canton, but on account of the effective resistance made, proceeded no further than Clinton. There were engagements at Brownsville, October 15; on the Canton road near Brownsville, October 15-16; Near the Clinton and Vernon cross-roads, October 16; at Bogue Chitto Cheek, and near Livingston, October 17; and near Clinton, October 18, in which all or parts of the regiment were engaged. After this the regiment was on guard duty between the Pearl and Big Black Rivers to the close of the year. December 25, 1863, Colonel Starke was put in command of the brigade, then including the First, Fourth, Twenty-eighth and Ballentine's Regiments. His headquarters was Clinton. He continued in this command, in Jackson's Division, under the organization of the cavalry, early in 1864, under Major-General S. D. Lee.

* * * * *

At the outset of Sherman's raid to Meridian, the brigade met the advance of Hurlbut's column near the Joe Davis plantation, giving battle there February 4, the Twenty-eighth being commanded by Major McBee. General Wirt Adams likewise encountered McPherson's column, but neither Confederate force was strong enough to make serious resistance. Next day, having retired through Clinton, and Captain Ratliff reporting a flank movement on the Springs road, Starke fell back through Jackson and out on the Canton road. General Sherman reported that February 5 was "one continuous skirmish for 18 miles, but we did not allow the enemy's cavalry to impede our march, but got to Jackson that night on his heels."

Loring and French were marching at the time to concentrate with the cavalry at Jackson, but were too late. "We got into Jackson first, secured their pontoon bridges repaired it and commenced crossing Pearl River on the 6 and on the 7th marched into Brandon." Starke, under the immediate direction of General Jackson, followed, and had a brisk engagement before Meridian on the 14th, with Wisconsin Cavalry fighting on foot. Sherman then began the destruction of Meridian, as the great military center of the Southwest. He reported: "For 5 days 10,000 men worked with a will....Meridian, with its depots, storehouses, arsenal, hospitals, offices, hotels and cantonements no longer exists." The railroad was also destroyed from Jackson to Meridian, from Meridian north to Lauderdale Springs, South to Quitman and East about twenty miles. This was all preparatory to the campaign against Atlanta. Forrest and Chalmers were busied with Sooy Smith's cavalry raid from Memphis, which was easily routed in the woods, on Wakatoochee Creek. Starke waited three days about Meridian and then he also went to help against Sooy Smith, but found on reaching Starkville that Smith was routed.

When Selma was taken they were compelled to retire in the night, thirty miles, across the Cahawba River, after which they moved to Livingston and went into camp. There the last muster rolls were made, up to April 31, 1865. The Capitulation by General Richard Taylor occurred May 4, 1865. The cavalry commands under General Forrest were surrendered at Gainesville, Ala., May 22, 1865.

Armstrong's Escort, enlisted at Monroe, La., 4 April, 1862.

Captain--Junius Y. Webb.

First Lieutenant--Lynn B. Watkins.

Second Lieutenant--Nathaniel M. Martin.

Third Lieutenant--John J. Carter.

Escort company for Brigadier-General Frank C. Armstrong.

Company C of Second Regiment Cavalry surrendered May 4 at Citronelle, Ala. and were paroled at Gainesville May 14, 1865.

ONE FAMILY RECORD

No. _____

Sheet No. _____
FAM. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

Generation _____
Husband's Name JAMES LAFAYETTE POWELL

Wife's Maiden Name CELIA JANE POWELL

Residence SUQUALENA, LAUDERDALE COUNTY,

MISSISSIPPI, USA.

Remarks _____

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- (A) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS FOR JOHN OSBURN POWELL FOR YEARS 1830-1840-1850-1860.
- (B) BIBLE RECORDS OF JOHN OSBURN POWELL DATED 1816.
- (C) CHURCH RECORDS OF CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH, YANTLEY, ALABAMA, YEARS - 1845-1875.
- (D) CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS OF FACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY, SUQUALENA, LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISS. USA
- (E) CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS OF OAK-HILL BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY, LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISS. USA.

1/18/50 by S. 1012

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
P. O. BOX 571
JACKSON 5, MISSISSIPPI



CHARLOTTE CAPERS
DIRECTOR

April 20, 1961

Mr. William L. Blanks
2514-34th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Blanks:

In compliance with your request of April 17, I am enclosing a certificate of the military service of James Blanks, as shown in the Official Confederate Military Records on file in the Department. Also enclosed is a certificate of the military service of F. Blanks.

You may be interested to know that Company C of the Second Regiment of Mississippi Cavalry, CSA, was known as the Lauderdale Cavalry, of Lauderdale County, and enlisted March 8, 1862, at Lauderdale.

Your request for genealogical information concerning Ludie Smith has been referred to Mrs. Jane Melton, genealogist for this Department. I feel sure you will hear from her within the next few days.

Whenever we can be of further service to you, please do not fail to call on us.

Sincerely yours,

Charlotte Capers

CC:n
enclosures



CHARLOTTE CAPERS
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
JACKSON

April 20, 1961

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF HINDS

CITY OF JACKSON

This is to certify that the Official Confederate Military Records on file in the Department of Archives and History show that JAMES BLANKS was a member of the Second Regiment of Mississippi Cavalry, CSA; and that he served as a Private in Company C of this Regiment.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS THE TWENTIETH
DAY OF APRIL, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE.

CHARLOTTE CAPERS

DIRECTOR

COMPANY C, SECOND MISSISSIPPI CAVALRY
C. S. A.

Surrendered at Citronnelle, Ala., May 4, 1865 and paroled at Gainesville, Ala., May 14, 1865.

1.	Walker, R. P.	1st. Sgt.	Lauderdale County, Miss.
2.	Siliman, S.	2nd. Sgt.	" " "
3.	Miles, J. D.	3rd. Sgt.	" " "
4.	Graham, W. J.	4th. Sgt.	" " "
5.	Walker, W. T.	1st. Corp.	" " "
6.	Pender, J. E.	2nd. Corp.	" " "
7.	Tull,	3rd. Corp.	" " "
8.	Wood, J. W.	4th. Corp.	" " "
9.	Bell, J. W.	Private	" " "
10.	Ball,	Private	" " "
11.	Blanks, F.	Private	" " "
12.	Blanks, Jas.	Private	" " "
13.	Burdo, D.	Private	" " "
14.	Brown, F. M.	Private	" " "
15.	Coll (or Cobb) R. S.	Private	" " "
16.	Calons (or Calins)	Private	" " "
17.	Creg, J. A.	Private	" " "
18.	Coard, J. W.	Private	" " "
19.	Gibbs, E. C.	Private	Sumter County, Ala.
20.	Gordon, A. D.	Private	Clark County, Miss.
21.	Gordon, E. B.	Private	Lauderdale County, Miss.
22.	Graham, G. J.	Private	Lauderdale County, Miss.
23.	Grossman, C. F.	Private	Sumter County, Ala.
24.	Hamner, G. W.	Private	Wilcox County, Ala.
25.	Hussey, A. G.	Private	Lauderdale County, Miss.
26.	Jimerson, J. G.	Private	" " "
27.	Jones, F. M.	Private	" " "
28.	King, G. W.	Private	" " "
29.	King, B. F.	Private	" " "
30.	Lackey, J. L.	Private	" " "
31.	Lackey, Samuel	Private	" " "
32.	McElroy, K. L.	Private	" " "
33.	McElroy, G.A.	Private	" " "
34.	Miller, J.	Private	" " "
35.	Moore, G. J.	Private	" " "
36.	Moore, John	Private	" " "
37.	Megren, H. E.	Private	" " "
38.	Neill, G. W.	Private	" " "
39.	Obanon, John	Private	" " "
40.	Payton, J. F.	Private	" " "
41.	Rodgers, P. A.	Private	Sumter County, Ala.
42.	Segars, R.	Private	Lauderdale County, Miss.
43.	Segars, B.W.	Private	" " "
44.	Sims, W. A.	Private	" " "
45.	Sims, W. A. Jr.	Private	" " "
46.	Shelton, J. V.	Private	" " "
47.	Simons, O. G.	Private	" " "
48.	Stevens, E. S.	Private	" " "
49.	Teral, Joseph	Private	" " "
50.	Tinon, J. F.	Private	" " "

51.	Tucker, Wm.	Private	Lauderdale County, Miss.
52.	Walker, J. R.	Private	" " "
53.	Walker, R. T.	Private	" " "
54.	Walker, J. D.	Private	" " "
55.	Webb, J. R.	Private	" " "
56.	Williams, H.	Private	" " "
57.	Williamson, J. L.	Private	" " "
58.	Wood, J.	Private	" " "
59.	Young, J. T.	Private	" " "

DETACHMENT

60.	Joiner, J. J.	Private	Co. K, 2nd, Miss. Cavalry Scott County, Miss.
61.	Yarbrough, W. T.		4th Sgt. Co. K, 2nd Miss. Cavalry Scott County, Miss.

TAKEN FROM PHOTOSTATIC COPY OF COMPANY C, SECOND MISS. CAVALRY RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON BY Mr. Lamar R. King, SIDON, MISS.

MEMORANDA

~~Mrs. Ann Blanks~~ ~~Theresa Blanks~~
Died August the 12th at 6 o'clock with A.D. 1870.

Mary Ann Eliza Blanks, daughter of J. B. and Lucia A. Blanks
Was born 7th day of August at 4 o'clock P.M. A.D. 1875

^{Deaths}
Robert Lee Blanks, son of J. B. and Lucia A. Blanks
Departed this life October the 22^d at 4 o'clock P.M. 1865
age one year, and five days, and a half.

~~Lucia A. Blanks~~ ~~Wife of J. B. Blanks~~ ~~and~~
Daughter of John and Mary Pindel of Ala.
Departed this life September the 22^d A.D. 1885 at
6 o'clock P.M. Died with consumption of the
stomach; she was a member of the Baptist Church.
Blessed are they that die in the Lord.

DEPARTING

Starks Depart This safe
Jeff F. Blanks son of J. L. & L. Blanks
Died Sept 13th 1902 at Baxter Ark.

1900 Census Record - Lauderdale Co., Miss.

JAMES L. BLANKS		b. Dec. 1859	in MISS
Maggie	Wife	b. Feb. 1868	" "
EUGENE G.	Son	b. Nov. 1894	" "
Wm J. Harrison	Bo	b. Nov. 1844	in S.C.

(Vol. 27, E.D. 25, Sheet 1, Lines 20 - Microfilm T1054,
Lines 11 of Soundex Cards - Copied by Mr. John A. Wilson)

1900 Census Record - Lauderdale Co., Mass

John P. Blanks b. Feb. 1855 in Mass
(living alone)

(Vol. 27, E.D. 23, Sheet 3, line 100, Microfilm 71054,
line 11, y Foundry Cards. Copied by Dr. John H. Wilson)

BEAUVOIR SHRINE
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BEAUVOIR

Jefferson Davis Shrine

April 29, 1961.

Mr. William L. Blanks.
2514-34th Avenue.
Meridian,
Mississippi.

Dear Mr. Blanks;

Replying to your letter relative to one Mrs. Ludie Smith Blanks, our records indicate that Mrs. Blanks entered Jefferson Davis Soldier's Home on July 9th, 1931 from Lauderdale County, Mississippi and was at that time 80 years of age which of course shows she was born in 1851. Her record shows she was the widow of one William Smith and gave as her next of kin a Mrs. Bettie Mosby Blanks, 901 -28th avenue. Meridian, Mississippi. The record shows further that she died on August 28th 1933 and was buried in Beauvoir Cemetery which is here on our property.

Hopeing this is information of importance to you and thanking you for your inquiry, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. A. Blackledge, Manager.

TOMBSTONE - BEAUVOIR CEMETERY

LAURA V. BLANKS
Died August 28, 1933
Age 82 yrs.

*Sons
Charles
W. A. Blackledge
Cousin*

Meridian, Mississippi
July 5, 1961


State Board of Health
Vital Statistics Department
Jackson, Mississippi

Gentlemen:

I am trying to find the birth date of
Ludie Smith Blanks, widow of James L. Blanks. She
entered Jefferson Davis Soldier's Home July 9, 1931
and died there August 28, 1933 and was buried in
Beauvoir Cemetery, Biloxi.

If the death certificate indicates a date
of birth, will you kindly advise.

Yours very truly,


William L. Blanks

Fellowship Church Slates Dedication

Sunday will be a special day in the life of Fellowship Baptist Church here as the new auditorium building will be dedicated following dinner on the 10th.

Dr. W. D. Compere, president of the college at Newton, will deliver the dedication sermon. Other pastors, including Raymond Houston, Fitzgerald and Harold Barber, Harold Harris and Richard Sowards have been invited to attend.

Organized In 1838

Fellowship Baptist Church was organized officially in June 1838. An initial meeting of persons interested in forming a church was held in April of that year. The first meeting place was a log structure. The second building which replaced the log church was a box-like structure, utilizing an up and down plan. This building was used until 1906 at which time a larger meeting place was erected. It served the congregation until 1929 when it was replaced by a new building with Sunday School rooms. This building was dedicated in April 1950. The church is located in the Center Hill community of North Lauderdale County.

In September, 1958, Fellowship Church voted to become a full-time church. A pastor's home was erected in 1959.

New Auditorium

The year 1961 saw the completion of a new auditorium with a seating capacity of over 200. The structure was divided into Sunday School rooms.

On Sunday, 1970, the congregation voted to build a new church building containing classrooms, office, kitchen and a full-time pastor's home.

The church is currently under construction. The new church will be a modern structure with a seating capacity of over 200. The building will contain classrooms, office, kitchen and a full-time pastor's home. The church is currently under construction. The new church will be a modern structure with a seating capacity of over 200. The building will contain classrooms, office, kitchen and a full-time pastor's home.

Graham J. H. Williams, W. R. Garner, R. A. Freeman, J. H. Cook, W. T. Carroll, B. S. Gray, E. McAbery, H. B. Harrison

Officers: Charlie Snowdon, Houston Fitzgerald, R. O. Barber, Harold Harris, and Richard Sowards.

In August, 1967 Jerry Garba was called as pastor and serves presently. During the year a new glass entrance has been installed on the auditorium. The indebtedness paid off on the auditorium, the church voted to purchase five acres of adjoining woodland, and a new educational building was constructed.

Revival Slated

Revival services are scheduled Sunday through August 10th with Rev. Bill Webb, pastor of Midway Baptist Church preaching each morning during the week at 10:30 a.m. and at 7:30 p.m. Coffee and do-nuts will be served each morning at 10 o'clock. Jacob Smith will direct the music with Felise Woodall serving as pianist.

"All members, former members and friends of Fellowship Baptist Church are invited to attend these special services," the pastor said.

Needs Information

MERIDIAN STAR - Dear Sir, I am trying to locate some distant relatives who are believed to be living in the Meridian area. They would be most helpful to my family in completing a genealogy.

All the information we have about them is that they would be the children of the grandchildren of Charles Smith who was the brother of my grandfather, William Thomas Smith. The brothers were born around 1800, sons of William Wadsworth Smith. After his death their mother, Hudee, married a preacher named Blanks.

Needless to say, the Smith part of our family is the hardest to trace. If you can help us receive any information, we appreciate it. MRS. SYDNEY JOHNSTON, 870 Central Avenue, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
P. O. BOX 571
JACKSON 5, MISSISSIPPI

April 25, 1961



CHARLOTTE CAPERS
DIRECTOR

Mr. William L. Blanks
2514 - 34th Avenue
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Blanks:

In reply to your inquiry of April 17 I regret that we do not have any records that would give the birth and death dates of Ludie Smith Blanks. Birth and death records were not required to be kept in Mississippi until 1912. If this lady died after 1912 you might be able to get a copy of her death certificate - which would give whatever dates were available at the time of her death - from the Vital Statistics Department of the State Board of Health, Jackson.

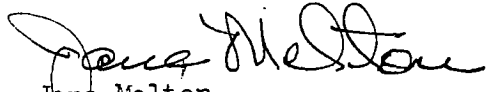
You might write the superintendent of the Beauvoir Shrine, Biloxi, Mississippi, and see what records they have. ←

*W.A.K.
4-26-61*

We have census records up through 1880 if you knew the place the lady lived at any given census year. Our records are on microfilm and are not alphabetical so our limited staff cannot check them due to the time involved. We are glad to recommend persons outside of the Department who do this sort of work for a reasonable fee.

Mrs. Acruman and I became "pen pals" some years ago. I had not met her personally until a year or so ago when she and her daughter came by the Department. She has been here once since. She is a lovely person. I trust you will be able to get the information you need without any trouble.

Sincerely yours,


Jane Melton
Research Librarian

m

Grave Atop Remote Hill Near Enterprise Hidden from View Over Hundred Years

By JIM HALLEY

Meridian Star Co. respondent

STONEWALL, Miss. — One day while hunting, Ardell Covington, a supervisor at the Erwin Mill's plant in Stonewall, stumbled on a grave stone on top of one of the lofty foothills of the Wautubbe mountain about four miles south of Enterprise.

The stone was almost hidden by a thick undergrowth of brush and briars. Covington cleared away some of the brush and examined the stone. Although black and weathered with age, it was in a good state of preservation. The carvings were deeply etched, but barely readable because of discoloration.

While clearing away the brush, Covington came upon a smaller stone which he guessed correctly to be the footstone. This, too, carried a carved legend.

Place Hard to Reach

Both stones bore the name Rebecca Fincher Norris. Covington told this reporter about the find and in company with Covington and his two children, Sandra and Gerald, I visited the grave.

It is not easy to get to. It is located on a hilltop about 300-400 yards west of River Road, south of Enterprise. You drive down turn-off road which leads up to Wautubbe Mountain. About 100 yards south of the turn-off, you come to a culvert which carries a branch under the road. You leave your car there then strike off into the woods on the right side of the road, following the creek around till you come to a point where you can climb the hill. On the very top of the hill, you will find the grave.

There are no other graves, nor any cemetery anywhere near the place. The burial site was undoubtedly chosen with some appreciation for the fitness of the place. Lofty, remote and hard to reach—it makes the perfect last resting place.

I had brought a piece of yellow chalk with me with which I brushed both stones to make the inscriptions readable. The chalk brought out vividly and legibly every word of the

REBECCA FINCHER NORRIS born during the revolutionary struggle; died Jan. 25th 1844. Nearly four times 11 years the happy wife of Wm. S. Norris and Mother of one son and 7 daughters; all the heads of families; a firm Christian she rejoiced to lay down the burden of life, only regretting an earthly parting with her fond Husband, affectionate Children & devoted Servants. She never had an enemy.
The footstone reads **REBECCA FINCHER NORRIS AGED 68 YEARS**

The headstone and footstone face opposite each other, with the head-

stone facing west, contrary to usual custom. I figured that maybe when woodcutters were cutting the long leaf pine off the hill many years ago, they might have found the headstone lying down. Perhaps some good Samaritan set it back up facing the wrong direction.

Can Find No Descendants

I was interested to know if there were any descendants of the Norris family in this area. Courthouse records contain evidence of William S. Norris' activities as early as March 1844. At that time, three months after the death of Rebecca, a Deed of Gift was recorded noting the sale of a 12-year-old Negro girl named Winney to Louisa A. Pool.

Another deed records the sale of four slave children to Mary Haynes for \$1200. The children ranged in age from four to eight years.

Had a Second Wife

Later on, 1854, Norris recorded an instrument dividing seven slaves among his children, including his only son, William S. Norris, Junior, and his daughters all of whom were married.

The last item of record on Wm. S. Norris is an interesting settlement with his second wife, Elizabeth, made on Dec. 18, 1854. In this rather melancholy document, Norris gives up his horse and buggy, a rifle, some odds and ends of household furnishings, and several slaves to his wife on condition that she have no further claims upon him, his estate or his family. From the wording of these deeds it appears that Norris came originally from Choctaw county, Alabama.

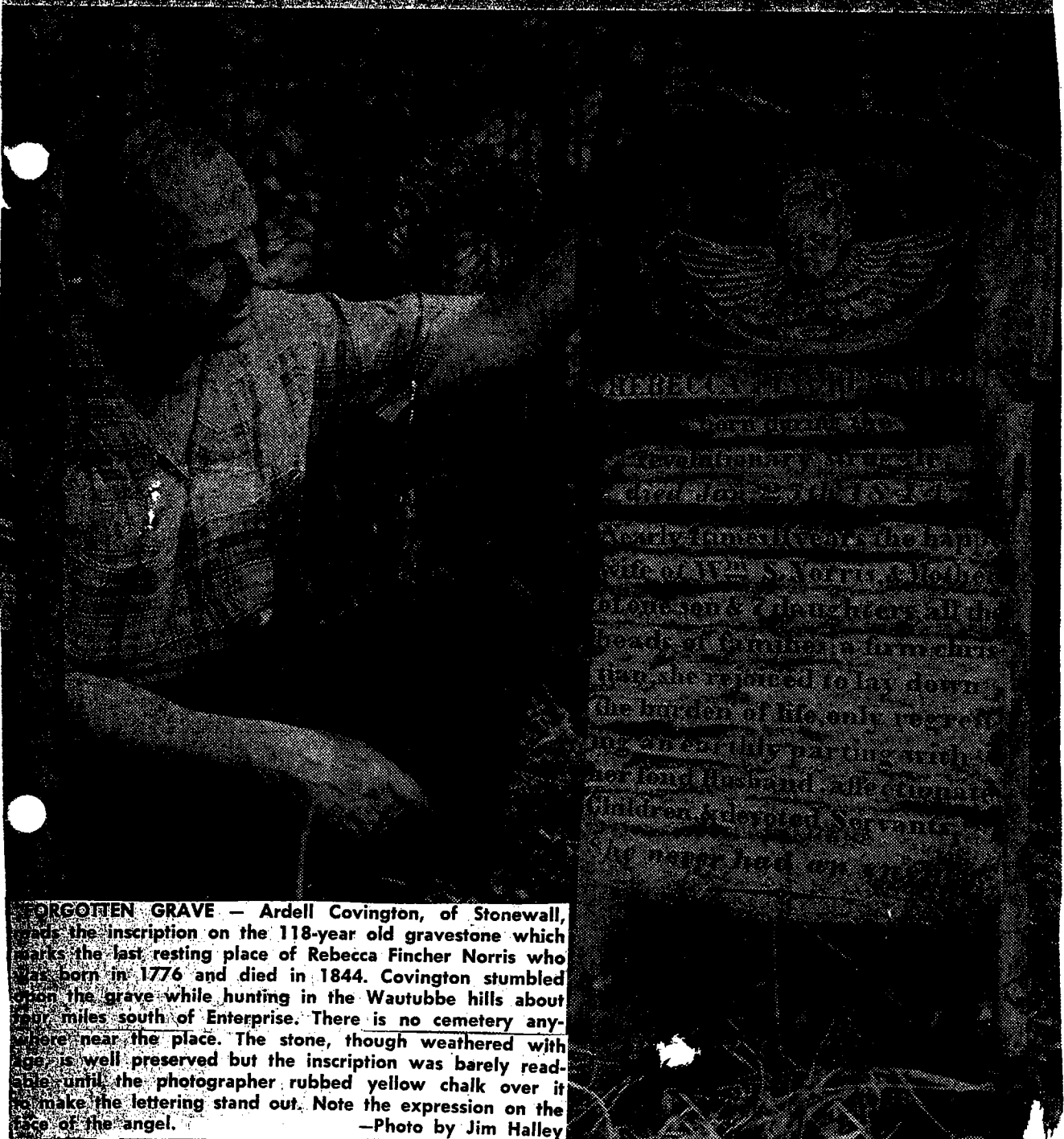
The property on which the grave is located has been in the Bonney family of Enterprise since the early part of the century. Walter A. Bonney, present owner, said he didn't know about the grave and cannot recall ever seeing it, although he knows that there are some scattered Negro graves, and an old Negro cemetery on his property near Wautubbe.

So, much of the mystery surrounding William S. Norris and his big family still remains a mystery. Was he a big plantation man? Some of the deeds speak of cotton plantings and crops in the field. Where did the family live? I didn't have time to make a thorough study of the Norris family branches, but from the records of Wm. S. Norris there was only one transfer of property and that was a section nowhere near the grave site.

Are any descendants of the family living in this area now? Do they know about the grave of their ancestor? We doubt it. We

talked with many oldtimers in Enterprise and Stonewall, but no one remembers seeing the grave of Rebecca Fincher Norris.

If the stone was erected shortly after her death in 1844, as seems reasonable, it has weathered the winds and rains and burning suns of 118 years on that lofty hilltop. May she continue to rest in peace.



FORGOTTEN GRAVE — Ardell Covington, of Stonewall, reads the inscription on the 118-year old gravestone which marks the last resting place of Rebecca Fincher Norris who was born in 1776 and died in 1844. Covington stumbled upon the grave while hunting in the Wautubbe hills about four miles south of Enterprise. There is no cemetery anywhere near the place. The stone, though weathered with age is well preserved but the inscription was barely readable until the photographer rubbed yellow chalk over it to make the lettering stand out. Note the expression on the face of the angel. —Photo by Jim Halley

Knows Of Family Who May Be Descendents

JIM HALLEY AND THE MERIDIAN STAR: I read with interest your article in March 4's Star about the grave near Enterprise.

I have always known of a family of Norrises who could be the descendents of this person. Since Choctaw County was mentioned, it just could be. This family that I knew lived near the line between Choctaw County, Alabama and Clarke County, Mississippi, in what was then known as Hinton or Antioch community, about half way between Butler, Alabama and Quitman, Mississippi. One of his sons became a doctor and practiced medicine in Quitman until his death several years ago. At the moment I can't think of his given name, but he had a brother named Harvey, who is also dead, but his widow lives on Rt. 1 Quitman. Another brother whose name is Elvin may still be living and perhaps near Quitman. Yours truly, MRS. GEORGE B. MOORE, Riderwood, Ala.

THE MERIDIAN STAR

Eugene H. Blanks Sr.

Services for Eugene Blanks Sr., 1821 23rd Ave., will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Webb Funeral Home, Chattanooga, with Dr. William Apperson officiating. He will be assisted by Rev. Herman Heath. Burial will be in Magnolia Cemetery.

Blanks died Wednesday at Riley Hospital. He was a member of First Christian Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Ollie Blanks; a daughter, Mrs. J. D. McInnis, Meridian; two sons, E. H. Blanks, Jr., Huntsville, Ala., and James Blanks, Jackson; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Frank Kennedy Jr., W. A. Woodard, Floyd Wiggins, Kline Shank, E. M. Cagle, R. F. McDonald Sr., Edwin C. Brown and J. Burnett.

Visitation hours will begin 7 p.m. Friday.