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Document Title: Gieger Cemetery in Covington County, Mississippi

Source: Gerry Gieger authored the following text about the cemetery and all photos from the cemetery.



Overview of the three grave markers at the Gieger Cemetery in 2000.

The Gieger Cemetery is located on a tributary of the Okatoma Creek in a heavily wooded area on the east side of US Highway 49, south of Collins, Mississippi. It is about two miles from the courthouse and just past a private zoo which houses unwanted and discarded exotic animals. The land is presently owned by a Jackson, Mississippi, descendant of Mr. Sam Shoemake, and is only accessible from the adjacent land of Mr. R.C. Sanford and his wife. Access requires crossing the Sanford's pasture, and climbing a five-foot net and barbed-wire fence. Many Gieger descendants have sought the cemetery. The path to the cemetery was marked with orange florescent paint on the trees on 31 August 2000.

At one time a wagon road passed within 20 yards of the cemetery, but that has since disappeared. The grave markers are cement slabs covering the entire graves and hand-lettered inscriptions adorn the surface. Since they are at ground level, falling leaves often cover up the slabs and soon the slabs are underground through the process of decaying leaves. Years ago someone placed a barbed wire enclosure around the cemetery, but only one post remains upright. The area is inhabited by feral emus and other wildlife; an alligator has been seen in the Sanford's pond.

Additional graves may be located in the area and it is rumored that a slave graveyard existed in the same immediate area; however, it has not been located. Mrs. Sanford says some markers previously existed.

Pictures shown below are of the three grave markers of Jesse Gieger Sr., his wife Tabitha Martin Gieger, and Martha Dikes, mother-in-law of Zachariah Gieger, eldest son of Jesse and Tabitha Geiger.



Jessie Gieger
Senior was Born 20 March
1793 Departed 20 October
1871



Tobitha Martin
Wife of Jessie Gieger
Born 22 July 1793
Departed 17 November 1871



Martha Dikes
Wife of Benjamin
Dikes Departed
1 May 1862

Martha Dikes is the mother-in-law of Zachariah Gieger, elder child of Jessie and Tobitha GIEGER. She was the wife of Benjamin Dykes, who is thought to have died before 1860, and was buried in the old Welborn Cemetery in Jasper County, Mississippi.