

essa,
I finally found the article for your newsletter



Winn Parish As I Have Known It

By H. B. Bozeman

ARTICLE 549:

How did Transport Cemetery, five miles north-east of Dodson, right on the Winn-Jackson Parish line get it's Name?

In my article printed below, I think I have found all the answers.

My Article 545, printed in the Enterprise, August 15, 1968 was a letter from Mrs. John (Nancy Pullen) Held, and for the past 51 years has been the wife of a wealthy St. Louis lumberman, and my answering letter. Mrs. Held is the granddaughter of Benjamin L. Stovall, Sr., one of the earliest pioneer settlers near where the famous old Transport Cemetery is located five miles north of Dodson. Mrs. Held was reared between Dodson and Transport Cemetery.

In her letter, Mrs. Held asked: "How did Transport graveyard get its name?". In my answering letter, I told Mrs. Held, I then did not know, but would try to find out. I now think I have.

During World War II, I remember hearing Mr. W.C. Cookston ask Mr. Charles F. Walsworth, then Winn Parish clerk of court: "Charley, do you know how Transport Cemetery got its name?" Mr. Walsworth replied: "Cavitt, I have always heard Benjamin Stovall, one of mine and Malma's ancestors gave it the name of Transport, and that he got the name out of the Bible". Malma is Mrs. W.C. Cookston, widow of the late Mr. W.C. Cookston, and she is still living here

In Winnfield.

Remembering what Mr. Walsworth told Mr. W.C. Cookston, I began searching through the Bible for the word "Transport", and how it would be a suitable name, for the name of a cemetery. In my Bible's concordance the word "Transport" was not listed. Then I went to my large dictionary to look up the various definitions of the word "Transport". One of these said: "Transport, synonym Translate, i.e. the translation of the Prophet Elijah from this world to Heaven--II Kings: 2:9-12. (2) taken from this earth to Heaven".

Knowing that Benjamin Stovall and his pioneer neighbor, David Caldwell, were devout Methodists and men of above the average in "book learning" I could easily understand how they selected the name "Transport" for their family burying place---it symbolized where the human soul went from this earth to Heaven.

From the inscriptions on the marble markers in the Transport Cemetery, the first two people buried there was in 1864 were Benjamin L. Stovall, Jr., the year old son of Benjamin L. Stovall, Sr., and his wife, Elizabeth Warren Stovall, and Nancy Ohillys Caldwell, wife of David Caldwell. She was 41 years old at her death.

Benjamin L. Stovall, Sr., while a Confederate soldier sustained injuries in 1864, from which he died early in 1865 and was buried in the Transport Cemetery. He was born in Alabama in 1821.

After getting Mrs. Held's letter, I contacted a number of her elderly relatives, seeking information about how Transport Cemetery got its name. Then none could remember--several of those I first contacted I have read this article to--some said it brought back to their remembrance of what they had forgotten from handed down family legends, that: Benjamin L. Stovall, Sr., gave Transport Cemetery its name and got the name from the Bible.

All of those to whom I have read this article, say they are glad I am printing it.

H.B. BOZEMAN