

Old Palestine Cemetery

Quadrant Map:

Bunceton

General Location:

Southwest of Speed

Congressional Township:

Township 47-N; Range 17-W

Section:

Northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 18

Longitude & Latitude:

To be determined

Directions:

?

Atlas Survey:

1877 land atlas – no cemetery symbol found

1915 land atlas – no cemetery symbol on Henry Gerhardt land

1978 plat book – no cemetery symbol on Clarence Gerhardt land

1991 plat book – no cemetery symbol on R. Kueckelhan land

History:

The old cemetery probably was a little east of the old town, as a resident of Speed, Missouri recalls that there were a number of gravestones visible from the inter-section of Route "F" and the gravel road from the south; opposite the large transformer. According to Mr. Gerhardt, present owner of the land (1980) there was only one marker left when the road was changed. The new route destroyed any remaining remnants of the old cemetery. No one seems to recall any names of those buried there; the only clues to any possible ones come from the histories of Cooper County, Mo.

The following account from Mr. E. J. Melton's "history of Cooper County, Mo." "Vanished Villages are No Ghost Towns" - page 498.

Old Palestine was built about a public square and was an important and thriving community from later pioneer days through the time of the Mexican and Civil War periods. It remained so until the Boonville-Versailles branch of the Mo. Pacific Railroad was built, when the community drew away to the railroad to establish New Palestine, about a mile to the east and north, later named Speed, Mo.

Michael Son erected the first building in Old Palestine using it for a grocery store and his home. The second was built by Judge John Briscoe and his son Wm. M. Briscoe. It was a store house. Other early merchants included Isaac Lionberger; Ward and parsons; Dr. Samuel Tutt; and James Bell.

James Taliaferro had a saddle shop and Jacob Shupler and men named Hummer & Taylor conducted blacksmith shops. Judge J. Hazell, Alexander Evans, and one Sebrum were early mechanics.

Among the towns last merchants were J. R. Parrish, Charles T. Moore, and J. Lawrence Stephens.

Busy and prosperous, the community saw many political conventions; company, battalion and general muster by the county military establishments in earlier times; and many justice-court hearings. Horse and foot races, wrestling matches, and fighting were impromptu affairs. The first settlers came here about 1817.

From Johnson's "History of Cooper County, Mo." published 1919

"Joseph Stephens, Sr. and family settled in Palestine in 1817; being piloted to their new home by Major Stephen Cole. Some of the other early settlers in Palestine Township were: Henry, Hiram, Heli, and Harden Corum; Mr. Tevis, the father of Capt. Simeon Tevis; Thomas Collins, Jacob Summers; Michael and James Williamson; John and Joseph Cathey; James, David, and John H. Hutchison; Nathaniel Leonard; John and Andrew Wallace; Henry Woolery; Holbert and Samuel Cole; James Bridges; James Simms; Russell Smallwood; Thomas Best; Greenberry Allison; William C. Lowery; Anthony F. Read; and others.

It is rumored that some of the old gravestones from the old burial grounds could be found in the walk at the old residence on this farm. This has not been verified.

Updated:

February 1, 2009 with 7 entries for this cemetery.

Ashmead	Samuel W.; died Oct. 1869; (Thought to be buried in or near Old Palestine, Mo.)
Parrish	? née Waller; no dates; first wife of David Parrish; seven children; recorded in the list of the Lone Elm Christian Church Cemetery, but with the notation "they may have been buried at the Old Palestine Cemetery"
Parrish	David; born 1807 in North Carolina; died 1873 near Speed, Missouri (New Palestine); "He came to Missouri in young manhood; settled in Palestine Township and spent the remainder of his life there."; husband of ? née Waller Parrish, first wife; husband of Elizabeth née Sinclair Parrish, second wife; recorded in the list of the Lone Elm Christian Church Cemetery, but with the notation "they may have been buried at the Old Palestine Cemetery"
Parrish	Elizabeth née Sinclair of Illinois; no dates; second wife of David Parrish; married in 1860; five children; recorded in the list of the Lone Elm Christian Church Cemetery, but with the notation "they may have been buried at the Old Palestine Cemetery"
Stephens	Peter; born circa 1785 in Wythe County, Virginia; died circa 1858 in Cooper County, Missouri; son of Joseph and Rhoda née Cole Stephens
Woods	Jael née Kavanaugh; born 1765; died at Palestine, Missouri; wife of Peter Woods; married 1783; Note: a notation states that Jael née Kavanaugh Woods; wife of Peter Woods died at Old Palestine. Rev Woods and his wife lived in Howard County, Missouri at the time of his death. The assumption that she is buried at this cemetery is just an assumption.
Woods	Rev. Peter; born 20 Mar 1762 at Greenbriar County, Virginia; died 19 Sep 1825 while pastor at Mt. Nebo Church; father of Rev. William K. Woods; Rev Woods and his wife lived in Howard County, Missouri at the time of his death. The assumption that he is buried at this cemetery is just an assumption