

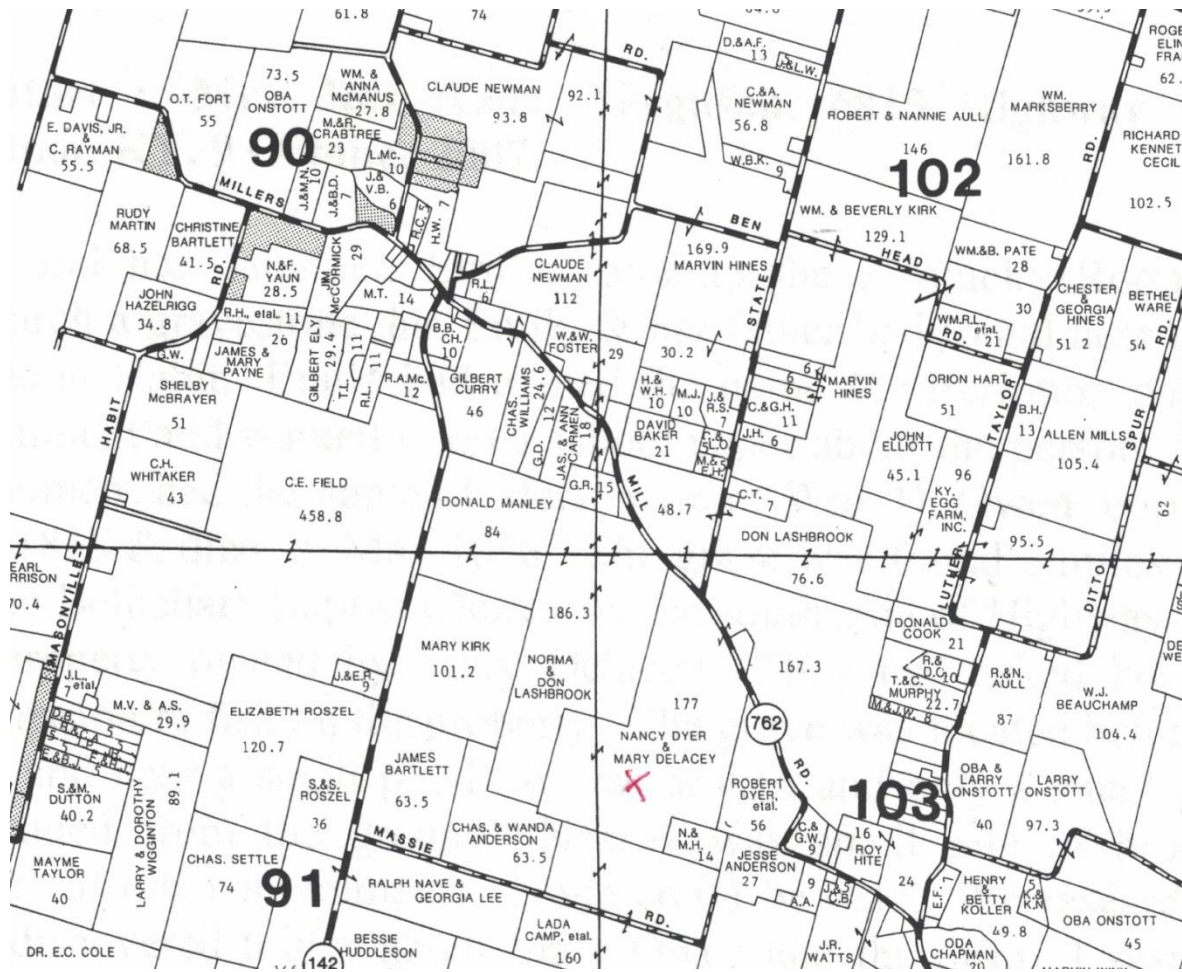
Grave of Mary Vanover Owen (1838-1858) Daviness County, KY

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky.

On 9 October 2007 Mrs. Rex (Lori) Ferguson, of 6815 Hwy 762, Philpot, KY and her daughter, Emily, came to the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library to research a gravestone that Emily & her father had found near their home at Habit. Emily had copied the name & inscription on the monument and wanted to do a school paper about the person. The monument had the name of Mary, wife of Wm. D. Owen, born 22 October 1838 & died 29 May 1858. The grave was found 2 miles east of the Bethabara Baptist Church on the south side of Highway 762 on property owned by Mary Delacey. They had asked her for permission to fish on the property. The grave was located behind a small pond. It was broken and only a small part protruded from the ground. Nearby was small pile of broken pieces of other monuments. None of these could be read.

We researched Mary Owen and the Delacey farm. I concluded that the Owen marker may have been from a cemetery located on what was formerly known as the Camp farm. In 1993 while I was researching an article about Rev. Jasper Bristow and the old Bristow cemetery that was on the opposite side of the road I had been told about a cemetery on the former Camp farm that had been destroyed by the property owner just down the road. The Delacey property in the 1876 Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, Ky. (Masonville Precinct, p31) was shown as being owned by James W. Camp (1819-1880). James W. Camp had acquired the property in 1859 (History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, p673). James W. and wife are buried at the Bethabara Baptist Church Cemetery in Habit, a short distance to the north.

William D. Owen married Miss Mary Vanover on 6 July 1856 in Daviess County by Rev. Reuben Cottrell. Her marriage license reported that she was 18 and born Daviess County, her husband was 25 & born Breckinridge County. Her father, Henry Vanover, signed consent for her to marry. William D. Owen is in the 1860 & 1870 Daviess Censuses. He was shown with a second wife, Elmira Dailey, and a son, Clarence, who was born in December 1859. Also in their home in 1860 was an older child, Robert D. Owen, age 1. By the way the listing was made it appears that he possibly could be a child of his first wife, Mary. Mary Owen did not appear in the 1858 deaths that were recorded for Daviess County. Mary's death in 1858 predated James W. Camp's acquisition of the property, where her gravestone was found, and thus there may have already been a family cemetery located there.



X Location where Mary Owen (1838-1858) monument was found