

Jacob W. Trunnell Cemetery

Daviess County, KY

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, KY

Located about 1 mile southeast of Utica - on Highway 431 turn east onto Highway 140, out about 1/2 mile turn right (south) onto the Gore Road, about 1/2 mile, just past right angle turn, the cemetery is on the right side of the road, on a small knoll, about 30 feet from the road. When I visited the cemetery, on 19 Aug 1988, I found two monuments resting against a tree. They contained the following inscriptions:

Jacob W. Trunnell	born 7 Jan 1804	died 28 Aug 1856
Clarissa H., wife of O. O. Brown	died 2 Mar 1856,	aged 35 yrs.

In the ground nearby were the bases to at least three monuments, that had been broken off, and several fieldstones. Mrs. James S. (Evelyn) Gore, who lived in the next house past the cemetery, said that the cemetery was referred to as the "Trunnell Cemetery" and that in the early 1900's there were as many as 10 or 12 monuments there. Since my visit to the cemetery I have been informed that the monument of Clarissa H. Brown has disappeared.

Jacob W. Trunnell and Clarissa H. Brown, whose monuments were found in the cemetery, were brother and sister. They were children of John Trunnell & Elizabeth Wells, who in 1800-1801 settled in Bullitt County, KY (first listed there in the 1801 tax list). Four of this couples 13 children removed to the Utica area of Daviess County, KY. In addition to Jacob & Clarissa , Josiah Trunnell & Mahala (Ridgway), also lived in Daviess County.

Josiah Trunnell (18 May 1824 - 26 Nov 1901) came to Daviess County in 1851 (History of Daviess County, KY, c1883, p755). He is buried in the cemetery on his farm, about 3 miles north of the Jacob W. Trunnell Cemetery (see listing for "Trunnell Cemetery" in Daviess County, KY Cemeteries, Vol. II, WCK:FRA, Owensboro, KY, c1977, p73). This second Trunnell cemetery is well cared for and is along the west side of Highway 431 just past Brown's Valley and the railroad tracks. Also buried here is Josiah' sister, Mahala Trunnell Ridgway, her monument records that she died on 11 June 1890 at the age of 72.

Josiah Trunnell & Julia S. Rouse were married in Bullitt County, KY on 10 September 1847. They were the parents of 9 children: Zuilia, James S., Mary J., John R., Emma B., Eleanora, Josiah, Henry & Charles. Mahala Trunnell married John Ridgway in Bullitt County, KY on 9 January 1840 and they had four boys: Milton, Nathon, John

Trunnell & Warden. Mahala's husband was the son of Joseph Ridgway & Mary Wells. Clarissa H. Trunnell married Orville Overall Brown in Bullitt County, KY on 5 August 1841, to them were born: Sibbie Elizabeth, Joseph, Julia Evelyn & Ollie Albert. Orville O. Brown moved to Daviess County in 1853 (see History of Daviess County, KY, 1883, p728 & Historical Atlas of Daviess County, KY, 1876, p25). The son of Swepston Brown & Jane Whittledge, he was born in Bullitt County, KY on 10 June 1817 & died 30 April 1897. He was interred at the Greenbrier Baptist Church, near Utica, Daviess Co., KY. The little community of Brown's Valley, in Daviess County, was named after him. He opened a general store there in 1873, first known as Crow Hickman Station this railroad station was renamed when Orville O. Brown was appointed its first postmaster on 9 June 1887.

Jacob W. Trunnell married Melville Scott in Nelson County, KY on 11 November 1830. He first appears in the tax lists of Daviess County in 1839. On 10 February 1846 Jacob purchased 206 acres from George T. Kelly (Deed Book H, p87). Kelly had purchased 150 acres of this tract from William R. Griffith, Benjamin Field & Remus Griffith, on 27 April 1832 (Deed Book C, p418). When Jacob W. Trunnell died in 1856 he willed the farm (then 222 acres) to his two sons, James Houston Trunnell & John W. Trunnell. The former was born 14 February 1836, died 12 December 1886 & was buried at the Greenbrier Baptist Church Cemetery, and the latter son was born about 1843. Jacob W. & Melville Trunnell also had daughters: Mary Elizabeth, Melissa, Letitia & Ellen.

The Jacob W. Trunnell farm on 29 November 1859 was divided between James H. & John Trunnell (Deed Book Q, pp435 & 440). John Trunnell received the western 111 acres and his brother the other half. James H. Trunnell's widow, Mary Jane Ashby Trunnell, on 5 March 1868 sold her husband's 111 acres to James A. Small (Deed Book 31, p112). John Trunnell sold his 111 acres on 18 January 1865 to G. W. Murphy (Deed Book S, p137). Murphy sold the same to Richard O'Flynn on 7 October 1865 (Deed Book S, p609). O'Flynn on 19 December 1867 sold the northern 61 acres of the 111 acres to James T. Clark, the deed contained a reservation for 1 1/2 acres for a graveyard that was on the tract (Deed Book U, p469); Clark sold the 61 acres on 22 January 1868 to James S. Davis (Deed Book U, p470). At the time of an 1876 plat map of the Murray Precinct published in the book, Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY (p34) the former Jacob W. Trunnell farm of 222 acres was owned by James A. Small (161 acres) & James S. Davis (61 acres, this tract contained the Jacob W. Trunnell family cemetery). Richard O'Flynn on 20 March 1873 had sold to Susan A. Small the southern 50 acres of the 111 acres that was formally part of the Trunnell farm (Deed Book 37, p399); Mrs. Small's husband, James A. Small had previously purchased the eastern 111 acres of the Trunnell farm. In 1902 Oscar Gore purchased the eastern 111 acres from the Small family (Deed Book 74, p338). Members of the Gore family still own the farm; his daughter-in-law, Mrs. James Small Gore, lives on the tract which extends east of the Gore Road. James S. & Louisa J. Davis sold the 61 acre tract to George R. Davis on 30 Jan 1894 (Deed Book 60, p277). The 61 acres (cemetery tract), north of the Gore tract

and on the west side of the Gore Road, continued to be owned by the Davis family into the 1900's and during the 1980's it was the property of George Greer of Owensboro.

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Daviess County, Kentucky Cemeteries, Volume II (West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Hartford, KY: McDowell Publications, 1977), 73:

TRUNNELL FAMILY CEMETERY - Located on right side of U S 431, after you cross the railroad track at Brown's Valley. Few, if any, un-marked graves. Apr 14, 1974.

Ridgway, Mahala, wife John, aged 72 years		June 11, 1890
Trunnell, James S.	1858	1932
, Mildred, wife James S.	1878	1956
, John R.	1863	1937
, Lelia, wife John R.	1871	1953
, Allen D., son G. & E. M.	June 30, 1932	Oct 15, 1933
, Roy E, son J. R. & L.	Apr 6, 1889	Nov 9, 1890
, Josiah (Father)	May 8 [sic], 1824	Nov 26, 1901
, Julia, wife Josiah	Feb 11, 1829	Nov 10, 1911
, Henry, son J. & J. S.	Mar 19, 1848	Dec 15, 1881
, Robert F., son J. R. & Lelia	July 27, 1915	July 12, 1916
Ward, Nora, wife Thomas	Aug 16, 1869	Aug 12, 1892

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History of Daviess County, Kentucky (Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, Murray Precinct section, pp.754-755):

JOSIAH TRUNNELL, born in 1826, in Bullitt County, Ky., was a son of John and Elizabeth (Wells) Trunnell, both natives of Maryland. They died in Bullitt County, the father in 1847 and the mother several years previous. There was a family of thirteen children, three now living, two sons and one daughter. Josiah was reared in Bullitt County, and when sixteen years old learned the trade of a carpenter, which he worked at till twenty-one. He then enlisted in the Mexican war, and served twelve months. He returned to Bullitt County, and was married in 1848 to Julia S., daughter of Moses Rouse. He went to farming, and in 1851 came to Daviess County and located in Murray Precinct, on what is now the Small farm. He remained there three years and then bought his present farm, where he has 110 acres of well-improved land. He also has 133 2/3 acres of the bottoms, known as the Hatfield farm. Mr. and Mrs. Trunnell have had nine children,

