

Ambrose Cemetery

Ohio County, KY

By Jerry Long

On Highway 69 turn onto the Marvin's Chapel Road. Go about one-half mile past the Marvin's Chapel Methodist Church. Just before intersection with the Round Hill Road there are the ruins of a house and barn on the west side of the road. This is the former John & Myrtie (Ambrose) Dodson farm. Turn left into lane (path) about half way between the house and barn. Follow path past pond, go around left side of pond and then into woods and up hill. The cemetery is on hill about 250 footsteps from the house. A listing of the monuments was made by Jerry Long on 27 April 1993. Found 11 names inscribed on the monuments. About 8 other graves marked with fieldstones.



Former home of John H. & Myrtie (Ambrose) Dodson. Photo taken by Jerry Long on 27 April 1993.

Ambrose, Annie E. (d/o Henry & Betsy)	12 Jun 1854	20 Jan 1859
Ambrose, Betsy (w/of Henry)	26 Jan 1813	26 Jul 1868

Ambrose, Henry	24 Nov 1801	31 Jul 1873
Ambrose, Henry (s/o Henry & Betsy)	born & died	May 1837
Ambrose, J. F.	6 Feb 1845	28 Jan 1886
Ambrose, Johnnie (s/o Henry & Betsy)	born & died	Nov 1847
Ambrose, William L. (Co. G 17 th Ky. U. S.)	19 Dec 1842	15 Oct 1915
Crow, Andrew (Mason)	22 Feb 1817	6 Jan 1874
Crow, Henry (s/o Andrew Crow & Elizabeth Miller; buried in unmarked grave)	24 Aug 1854	7 Mar 1915
Medcalf, Charles K. (s/o C. K. & P. S.)	26 Jan 1862	17 Jan 1864
Medcalf, Pricy S. (w/o Charles K.)	14 Oct 1840	12 Apr 1871
Smith, Fannie F. (d/o J. W. & M. M.)	12 Dec 1858	23 Oct 1860

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Henry Ambrose son of Lewis (Ludwick) Ambrose (1769-1851) & Susannah Hedrick, was born 24 November 1801 Ohio County, KY, who were married in Nelson County, KY on 24 September 1895. Lewis appears in the first tax list in 1799. Henry's siblings included – Jacob M. (h/o Mariah James), John (h/o Sally Ann Hoover), Lewis (h/o Frances Chapman), Mary (w/o John (Shown), Samuel W (h/o Mary Duke), Isaac (h/o Nancy Bishop), Michael (h/o Delilah Ward) and Amanda Adeline (w/o Steven S. Taylor).



Henry Ambrose (1801-1873)

Henry Ambrose is listed in the 1840, 1850, 1860 and 1870 federal censuses of Ohio County, KY. In Ohio County on 4 August 1836 he married Elizabeth (Betsy) Crow (26 January 1813 – 26 July 1868). Their children:

1. Henry, born & died May 1837 Ohio County, KY; buried Ambrose Cemetery, Ohio County, KY.
2. Mary Maud, born 10 June 1838 Ohio County, KY; she married John William Smith (16 April 1835 – 21 December 1875, son of Elijah Smith & Leanna Flood), 4 March 1858 Ohio County, KY; she died 30 May 1883 Ohio County, KY; she & her husband buried Kelley Cemetery Ohio County, KY. She was survived by 5 sons & 2 daughters. Their children: Sarah Frances, 'Fannie'(1858-1860); John H. (1860-1941); Elijah L. (1865-1909); Maude H. (1865-); Edward Andrew (1868-1940); William P. (1870-1947); Stephen (1869-); Joe H. (1872-1949); Martha A. (1874-1965, Stidums).
3. Pricy S., born 14 October 1840 Ohio County, KY; married Charles K. Medcalf / Metcalf (c1835 – 4 January 1864 Chattanooga, TN), 24 August 1858 Gallatin County, IL; she died 12 April 1871; her husband died while serving in the Union Army, 17th KY Infantry during the Civil War; she was buried Ambrose Cemetery, Ohio County, KY. They had 3 children – Mary Elizabeth (1859-1937, married John B. Ralph), Charles K. (1862-1864) and Ida Eliza (1863-1926, married John Early Bean).
4. William Luther, born 19 December 1842 Ohio County, KY; he never married; died 15 October 1915; buried Ambrose Cemetery, Ohio County, KY.
5. James Ferdinand (see below).
6. Johnnie, born & died November 1847 Ohio County, KY; buried Ambrose Cemetery, Ohio County, KY.
7. Sarah Ann, born 1849-1850 Ohio County, KY; married Charles Johnson (5 September 1853 – 19 February 1918, son of William Henry Johnson & Parthena Williams), 14 March 1875 Ohio County, KY. She died 1880-1882. Her husband married 2nd Mary Susan Lacer, 30 May 1882 Ohio County, KY. Their children: Tildon Hendricks Johnson (1876-1962, married Rettie Lee Griffith & Eliza Jane Taylor) and Christopher Columbus Johnson (1877-1933, married Maggie J. Barnett & Genoa Johnson).
8. Annie E., born 12 June 1854 Ohio County, KY; died of croup on 20 January 1859 Ohio County, KY; buried Ambrose Cemetery, Ohio County, KY.

James Ferdinand Ambrose, son of Henry Ambrose & Elizabeth Crow, was born 6 February 1845 Ohio County, KY. He married Charlotte ('Lottie') Midkiff, 18 December 1873 Ohio County, KY. The daughter of John R. Midkiff & Charlotte Smith she was born 18 April 1849 Ohio County, KY. Her father was a first cousin of Kit Carson, the famous western frontiersman. James F. died at the age of 40 on 28 January 1886 in Ohio County, KY and was buried in the Ambrose Cemetery on his farm.

Kentucky: A History of the State (J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin & G. C. Kniffin, 1885, Ohio County section):

JAMES FERDINAND AMBROSE, Ohio County, was born February 6, 1845, on the place where he now resides, in Ohio County, Ky. His father was born November 24, 1801, in Ohio County, and died in 1873. His grandfather, a native of Germany, was a patriotic soldier, under Gen. Green, in the American Revolution. Subject's mother, Betsey Ambrose, died July 26, 1868. To her and husband were born Mary M. (Smith), Pricy S. (Medcalf), William L., James Ferdinand, Sallie A. (Johnson) and Annie E. In youth James F. was fortunate in receiving a common English education, and has, in a commendable manner, availed himself of every opportunity of seeking information. December 18, 1873, he was united in marriage to Charlotte, daughter of John and Charlotte (Smith) Midkiff, of Ohio County, born April 18, 1849, and this union has been blessed by the birth of two daughters, viz.: Iva and Myrtie. Mr. Ambrose is a farmer, owning 180 acres of well-improved land in a good state of cultivation. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party.



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We accidentally failed to chronicle the death of our boyhood friend, J. F. Ambrose, in our last issue. After a long illness he succumbed, at last, to that dread destroyer, consumption. He died on the 27th ult. He was an honest man, a good citizen and that is as good a record as any of us can leave, when we go hence.

Charlotte (Midkiff) Ambrose, wife of James F. Ambrose, died in Ohio County, KY on 15 March 1905 and was buried in the Sunnysdale Cemetery, Ohio County, KY. She was familiarly called "Aunt Puss". To them two children were born:

1. Iva Ambrose was born 14 December 1874 Ohio County, KY; married John Henry Morgan Miller (4 July 1865 Edmonson County, KY – 23 August 1937 Woodruff County, AR, son of Abraham Miller & Martha Ann Johnson), 14 May 1893 Ohio County, KY; they moved to Woodruff County, Arkansas in 1907, where she died on 5 February 1954 and was buried at the Augusta Memorial Park Cemetery, Augusta, Woodruff County, AR. Their children: Nora (1894-1985, married Charles P. Cook & Paul Philip Thoma), Curtis (1897-1988, married Ethel Florey), Claude (born & died 1900-1910), Ollie (1904-1996, married Victor Hugo Preller), Clifton (c1910-c1915) and Noel (1915-1995, married Doris H. Sawyer & Ruth Lavound Edmondson).
2. Myrtie Ambrose was born 27 August 1877 Ohio County, KY; married John Henry Dodson (30 November 1873 Laure County, KY – 6 July 1953 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, son of Andrew Wayne Dodson & Rachel M. Smith), 3 February 1897 Marvin's Chapel Church, Ohio County, KY; Myrtie died 27 September 1953 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; she and her husband were buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Hartford, Ohio County, KY. Myrtie's obituary stated: "Mrs. Dodson was born and reared on a farm settled by her grandfather near the Marvin's Chapel church. She continued to live there until three years ago when she and her husband went to live with their daughter, Miss Kitty Bess Dodson, in Owensboro, after their health began to fail. Her grandfather was prominent among the early settlers of Ft. Hartford, having followed the business of a tanner in the early days." She was survived by two daughters, one grandson, R. Tarvin Baker of Louisville, KY and a sister, Mrs. Iva Miller, of Augusta AR. John & Myrtie Dodson had two children: Annie Laura (1898-1973, married R. Tarvin Baker & William Houston Gillespie) and Kitty Bess Dodson (1903-1977, never married).

Miss Kitty Bess Dodson Retires After 19 Years With Daviess Extension

Miss Kitty Bess Dodson, extension agent in Daviess County, of Hartford and Owensboro, retired Friday after 19 years in extension work and 20 years in other governmental services.

Miss Dodson, who is retiring "to do some of the things I have been teaching others over the years" became Daviess County home demonstration agent October 1, 1950 after training a short time in Webster County.

Miss Dodson recalls she met J. E. McClure at Whitesville School in the fall of 1950 for a 4-H club meeting before reporting to the extension office in Owensboro. She has always been interested in youth.

Miss Dodson says the first question that confronted her was "how do you dye an ostrich feather" and since she has had lots of others, some she could answer and some she could not. Those she could not answer required help of the UK Extension Service specialists.

In Daviess County, there are presently 30 homemaker clubs and 12 were in existence in 1950.

Miss Dodson graduated from Hartford High School and Western Kentucky University before teaching school early in her career. She taught at Van Lear, Ky., Johnson County, and home economics at Hartford High for five years before going into the Quartermaster Corps at Jeffersonville, Ind., during World War II. She was transferred to the

Philadelphia Quartermaster Corps when research and development were transferred, and remained there for eight years.

She and her sister, Mrs Anna Laura Gillespie, own an Ohio County farm and she resides with her sister here on Griffin Street part of the time.

Miss Dodson attended one of the final functions under her direction Monday, the Green River Area Homemakers annual meeting in Owensboro. Mrs Judy Wakefield, area extension agent from Ohio County was on program and showed how the optical illusion of lines in clothing can be used to bring out a person's best points.



Miss Kitty Bess Dodson
(1903-1977)