

# Midkiff (Cap) Cemetery

## Ohio County, KY

By Jerry Long  
c2022

On a hill on Highway 1414 at Adaburg turn east onto the Adaburg - Beech Valley Road. Go about 2 miles and the cemetery is on the bank of the left side of the road just past a wooded area. It is about 3/4 of a mile from the road's end at the Sunnysdale Road (which to the north passes Beech Valley & Magan). The cemetery appears to have begun as the Midkiff Cemetery. Local residents said the cemetery was called the Cap Cemetery named after a later land owner, Jim Cap. It was on the farm of James Medcalf (1823-1900), whose family were also known by the last name of 'Cap'. The death certificates or obituaries of Elizabeth A. Midkiff (1909), John P. Midkiff (1919), Thomas F. Midkiff (1931), David D. Midkiff (1943) and John P. Midkiff (1950) all record the place of burial as the Cap Cemetery. Two children of Benjamin & Elizabeth (Robinson) Midkiff, James & Rebecca, have tombstones in the cemetery. I visited the cemetery on 30 April 1980.



Beech Valley - Magan neighborhood, Ohio County, KY, where many descendants of Benjamin Midkiff & Elizabeth Robinson are buried: **1** = Midkiff ('Cap') Cemetery, James G. Midkiff (1803-1872) & Rebecca Midkiff Pate (1806-1855 buried here. **2** = William Ralph Cemetery, Joseph Robinson Midkiff (1796-1856) buried here. **3** = John L. Ralph Cemetery. **4** = Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (Magan) Cemetery.



Picture taken by Jerry Long on 30 April 1980

Anna Gillaspie (w/o Stephen A.)

8 Oct 1826

7 Jan 1852

[Anna Crow, d/o John Crow & Pricy Boswell;  
w/o Dr. Stephen Allen Gillespie]



Dr. S. A. Gillaspie

3 Aug 1822

5 Mar 1900

[Stephen Allen Gillespie, s/o William Gillespie & Araminta Robinson; h/o Anna Crow & Mary Ann Medcalf]



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 28 March 1900 p4

**Dr. S. A. Gillespie**  
Died, March 4th, 1900, at his home near Reynolds Station, of consumption of the lungs. He was born and raised in this county and had been a member of Zion church for seventeen years. He was a Baptist of the first degree and he always stood up for the doctrine. He was also a Mason and he always said that the Masonic Lodge was the next thing to the church. He was a Demo-

crat and stood up to his principles. He never was known to cast any kind but a Democratic vote. He was kind to the poor and always ready to lend a helping hand. So dear friends and kinfolks and neighbors, weep not, for uncle Stern is at rest. He can see his way now, but when on earth he had to be led around by some friend. X. Y. Z.

Herman Greer (s/o C. D. & E. J.)

28 Feb 1889

2 Mar 1889

[s/o Coleman Dosier Greer & Elizabeth Jane Midkiff]





Rosie Greer (d/o C. D. & E. J.)

1 Apr 1884

31 Dec 1884

[d/o Coleman Dosier Greer & Elizabeth Jane Midkiff]



Mary E. Medcalf

8 May 1841

17 May 1879

[Mary Ellen Cambron; w/o Henry Medcalf]

David D. Midkiff

29 Jul 1870

4 May 1943

[David Daniel Midkiff, s/o John Peyton Midkiff & Elizabeth A. Burks; h/o Rosa Coy; Kentucky death certificate 1943-#12156 buried "Cap burying ground"]



J. P. Midkiff

19 Aug 1829

Elizabeth A. Midkiff (w/o J. P.)

12 Jun 1840

8 Jan 1909

[John Peyton Midkiff, s/o James G. Midkiff & Elizabeth D. Taylor; h/o Elizabeth A. Burks; Kentucky death certificate 1919-#14748 died 3 April 1919, "buried Cap graveyard"; obituary of Mrs. Elizabeth Midkiff, Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 10 February 1909 p1 "buried in the Cap burying ground"]



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY  
Wednesday, 23 April 1919 p1

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY  
Wednesday, 10 February 1909 p1:

Mr. John Midkiff, the oldest citizen of this community, passed away at his home here about three weeks ago, he was laid to rest in the family burying ground. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Wallace, of Dundee. He leaves several children to mourn his loss.

**Good Woman Gone.**  
Mrs. Elizabeth Midkiff, the wife of John P. Midkiff, died January 7, 1909, leaving three girls and five boys to mourn the loss of a mother, besides a host of relatives and friends. She had been a member of Beech Valley church for a number of years. While God has seen fit to call her away, we feel that our loss is her gain. Services were held at the residence by Rev. T. H. Metcalf and the remains were buried in the Cap burying ground.  
C. B.

James Midkiff (aged 69 years)  
[s/o Benjamin Midkiff & Elizabeth Robinson; h/o Elizabeth D. Taylor]

1802-1803

7 Feb 1872



Joseph B. Midkiff

16 Nov 1839

23 Dec 1871

[s/o James G. Midkiff & Elizabeth D. Taylor; h/o Mary Eliza Greer]



Rosa Midkiff

11 Dec 1889

3 Dec 1965

[w/o David Daniel Midkiff; d/o Samuel Coy & Mary Jane Cambron; obituary of Mrs. Rosa Midkiff, Ohio County News, Hartford, KY, 16 December 1965 “burial was in the Capp Cemetery”]



Ohio County News, Hartford, KY

Thursday, 16 December 1965

### Mrs. Rosa Midkiff

Mrs. Rosa Midkiff, 83, formerly of Ohio County, died at 8:30 p. m. Friday, December 3, at Marysville, Ohio. She was born and reared in the Beech Valley community, and was the widow of the late David Midkiff, who died in 1943.

Her only survivor is a son, Leslie Midkiff, of Marysville.

Final rites were held at 1:30 p. m. Monday, December 6, at the Duke Funeral Home, Dundee. The Rev. Thomas Nankivell, pastor of the Dundee Methodist Church, officiated.

Burial was in the Capp Cemetery, with the following acting as pallbearers: Leonard Magan, Willis Gillim, L. P. Gillim, Donald Magan, Herschel Midkiff and Marvin Midkiff.

Thomas F. Midkiff

18 Dec 1866

12 Mar 1931

Dempsey B. Midkiff (w/o T. F.

9 Jan 1876

[Thomas Farley Midkiff, s/o John Peyton Midkiff & Elizabeth A. Burks; h/o Dempsey Belle Clements. d/o George W. Clemmons & Margaret Ellen Sutton; Kentucky death certificate 1931-#9054, "buried Cap cemetery"; Kentucky death certificate 1955-#4395 Dempsey Metcalfe died 2 March 1955 "buried Metcalfe Cemetery"]





Ohio County News, Hartford, KY  
Friday, 20 March 1931

### **T. F. MIDKIFF DIES OF COMPLICATIONS**

T. F. Midkiff, of Beech Valley, who had been ill for several months of a complication of diseases, died Thursday, March 12. He was 64 years of age. Mr. Midkiff had been a member of the Methodist church since early manhood and had lived a consistent Christian since that time.

He leaves his widow, who was before her marriage, Miss Dee Clemmons; three brothers, Reat Midkiff, of Owensboro, Dan and John Midkiff, of Beech Valley; three sisters, Mrs. Mollie Baughn, of Arkansas, Mrs. Jane Greer, of Missouri, and Mrs. Sallie Ann Gilliam, of Beech Valley.

Funeral services were conducted at the Beech Valley church, Friday, by Rev. D. K. Dillon, pastor of Breckinridge Street M. E. church, Owensboro. Interment was in the Midkiff burying ground.

Ohio County News, Hartford, KY  
Friday, 22 March 1955

### **Former Countian Dies At Owensboro, March 2**

Funeral services were at 2 p.m., Saturday, at the Owensboro Funeral home by the Rev. D. L. Mattingly, of Fordsville, for Mrs. Dee Midkiff, 79, of 2211 Herr Avenue, Owensboro.

Mrs. Midkiff, who was born January 9, 1876, died at 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, March 2, at the Owensboro - Daviess county hospital. She was a member of the Methodist church.

Surviving her are nieces and nephews, the latter serving as pallbearers.

Rebecca Pate (w/o William; aged 49 years)  
[d/o Benjamin Midkiff & Elizabeth Robinson]

14 Jul 1855





Catherine A. Tucker (w/o E. T.)  
 [w/o Elliott Taylor Tucker; d/o Leo Wimsatt & Theodocia Brown]

15 Oct 1845

29 Sep 1872



E. T. Tucker  
 [Elliott Taylor Tucker, s/o Isaiah Tucker & Jane A. Settle;  
 h/o Catherine A. Wimsatt & Kissiah Anne Bellamy]

18 Feb 1839

13 Nov 1882





### Unmarked graves

Mary Elizabeth (Midkiff) Cambron [w/o Robert; d/o James G. Midkiff & Elizabeth D. Taylor; interview of granddaughter, Frankie Cambron (1905-1993)]	c1826	1880-1891
Robert Cambron [h/o Mary Elizabeth Midkiff; interview of granddaughter, Frankie Cambron (1905-1993)]	c1822	1880-1891
Stephen Cambron [s/o Robert Cambron & Mary Elizabeth Midkiff; died childhood; interview of niece, Frankie Cambron (1905-1993)]	1853-1870	1853-1870
Walter Cambron [s/o Robert Cambron & Mary Elizabeth Midkiff; died childhood; interview of niece, Frankie Cambron (1905-1993)]	1853-1870	1853-1870
Charlotte E. Cambron Coy [w/o Daniel Coy; d/o Robert Cambron & Mary Elizabeth Midkiff; interview of niece, Frankie Cambron (1905-1993)]	c1856	25 Apr 1881

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY  
Wednesday, 11 May 1881 p4:

Near Beech Valley church, Ohio county, on the 25th ult., of consumption, Mrs. Charlotte Coy, wife of Daniel Coy.

Mrs. Coy was a daughter of Robert Cambron, Esq., was a member of the Methodist Church, South, and during her entire membership lived strictly up to her duty as a Christian and a member of society. She leaves a husband and one child, besides numerous relatives and friends.

T. W. WRIGHT.

James Stanislaus Medcalf

7 May 1823

13 Feb 1900

["Jim Cap", s/o Ignatius Medcalf & Agnes Catherine Hough; h/o Mrs. Elizabeth Adaline (Garth) Midkiff, widow of Thomas T. Midkiff]

Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 18 February 1900 p1:

## JIM CAPP DEAD

**A Fellow of Infinite Wit and Ohio  
County's Practical  
Joker.**

**Snakebit a Man With a Brass Pin  
and Almost Caused His  
Death.**

Mr. J. H. Medcalf, better known as Jim Capp, died last Monday at his home in Ohio county, about three miles from Sulphur Springs, of old age. He was 87 years old and was born on the farm on which he died. He was a noted character in the early history of the county. As a practical joker there was none to compete with him in the day and age of practical jokers. He kept whole neighborhoods laughing at his pranks for forty years, until the serious results of one of his diversions put a stop to his worst efforts in that line. One of his neighbors had a dread of snakes that rendered him miserable when he was where one was liable to be concealed. Jim stuffed a rattle snake skin and waited his chance for a joke. He invited the man to spend a night with him and slipped the snake skin into the bed. Then he told snake

stories until the poor fellow could see them crawling in the darkness. By and by he shook the rattles on the skin and at the same time popped a pin into his neighbor and yelled that there was a snake in the bed. The man was out in an instant and Jim threw the skin on him. He fell to the floor in a faint and almost died from the shock. It was several weeks before he recovered, and Jim's jokes were more innocent after that. His imagination knew no bounds and he could invent one story after another with a rapidity that was marvelous. All were told as the solemn truth, and his reputation among his staid and matter-of fact neighbors may be imagined. However, nothing that he ever said had a tinge of malice in it. He lived a bachelor until he was about sixty, when he married a widow, Mrs. Adalise Midkiff, who lived on an adjoining farm. He was a distiller for many years, and had many ups and downs with the revenue men, but always came off best and was never in any serious trouble. A faithful account of his life would be a humorous history of Ohio county for half a century. He was a man of keen wit and with a turn for repartee that made him a formidable foe to any one who happened to measure weapons with him.



Elizabeth D. Taylor Midkiff	7 May 1800	11 Mar 1878
[w/o James G. Midkiff; d/o John Peyton Taylor & Mary Davis]		

John Peyton Midkiff, Jr.	18 Mar 1872	1 May 1950
[s/o James G. Midkiff & Elizabeth D. Taylor; single; Kentucky death certificate 1950-#10769 buried Capp Cemetery]		

Ohio County News, Hartford, KY, Friday, 12 May 1950

**Funeral Held May 2  
For John P. Midkiff**

Funeral services for John Payton Midkiff, 78, retired farmer, who died at 1:30 p.m., Monday, May 1, at the home of a nephew, Willis Gillim, Route 2, Fordsville, were held at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, May 2, at the Beech Valley Methodist church, the Rev. Charles Payton officiating. Burial was in the Capp cemetery.

Mr. Midkiff had been making his home with Mr. Gillim for the past three and a half years. He died following a stroke suffered April 27.

Born in Ohio county March 18, 1872, he was the son of John P. and Elizabeth Ann Burk Midkiff. He was a believer in God but never united with any church.

Surviving are a brother, Reat Midkiff, of Owensboro; two sisters, Mrs. Marshall Gillim, of Dundee, Mrs. C. D. Greer, of Can-alou, Mo., and a number of nieces and nephews.

Lorene Midkiff	27 Mar 1905	27 Mar 1905
[d/o Reatus Allen Midkiff & Mary Ludie Allen; twin, died at birth]		