

# Grave of John Campbell (1872-1908)

CAMPBELL GRAVESTONE - Daviess County, KY

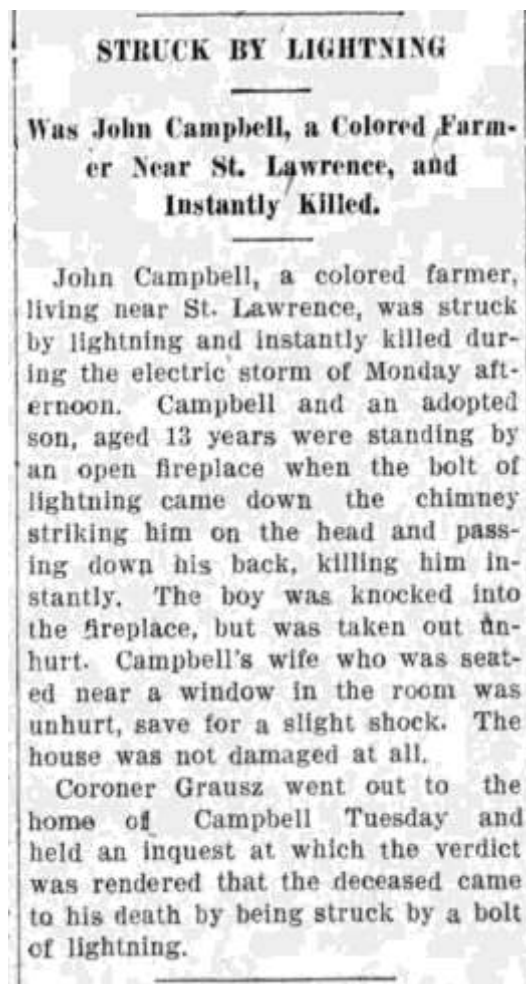
By Jerry Long, Owensboro, KY

In the woods behind the St. Lawrence Church is a solitary gravestone. Standing erect in 1990 the monument had the following inscription:

John Campbell killed by lightning June 8, 1908



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 12 June 1908, p.5:



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 9 June 1908, p.5:**

BY LIGHTENING  
NEGRO FARMER WAS KILLED AT ST. LAWRENCE

Four Year Old Child Was Seriously  
Injured—House Was Considerably Damaged.

John Campbell, colored, a farmer living two and one half miles south of St. Lawrence, was struck by lightning and instantly killed, early Monday afternoon and his four year old child was seriously injured. His wife was in the same room but was uninjured, with the exception of receiving a severe shock.

Campbell and his wife and child were seated in the dining room of his home when the lightning struck the chimney and entered the room through the flue. The house was considerably damaged. Campbell was a well known negro in that section and was a prosperous farmer.



At Whitesville on 7 January 1892 John Campbell married Julia Stone (Daviness County, KY Black Marriage Book G-p192). John and his wife were enumerated in the Knottsville Precinct in the 1900 Daviness County, KY census (p323, #98). They were listed eight households from the Catholic priest at the St. Lawrence Church. John Campbell was recorded as being born in KY in February 1872, married 7 years, one child then deceased had been born to him & his wife. John was the son of Frank & Sarah Campbell and grandson of Winnie or Minnie Campbell, who were all living together in the Knottsville area at the time of the 1870 Daviness County, KY census (p153)

Julia Campbell, widow of John, was living in Whitesville, when the 1910 census of Daviness County, KY was taken (p145). She was listed as being a hotel cook, was 41 years old, and four children had been born to her but only one was then living. Living with her was a daughter, Carrie J. Campbell, 6 years old. Mrs. Julia Campbell married Grant R. Hazelwood (1869-1932) at Whitesville on 29 September 1913 (Daviness County, KY Marriage Book J-p286).

The Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer of 12 April 1956 reported that Julia C. Hazelwood, age 87, died April 11, at her home in Owensboro. She was born in Hancock County, KY on 18 February 1869 and was buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro. Her obituary listed her survivors as: a daughter, Mrs. Carrie Norris of Evansville, IN, a foster son William Campbell of Cleveland, Ohio, and one grandchild. Carrie Jane Campbell, daughter of John Campbell & Julia Stone, was born 24 March 1904 Knottsville, KY; married Jesse Ross Norris (1897-1959) in Owensboro on 27 January 1923 (Daviness County, KY Marriage Book 48-p91), on her marriage it was recorded that she was 18, born Daviness County, KY, & resided at Whitesville. Carrie Norris died 9 October 1975 Evansville, IN, where she was buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery. Carrie was survived by a daughter, Shirley Whitfield, and two grandchildren.

["Campbell Gravestone: Daviess County, KY", published in Kentucky Family Records, Vol. 21, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1997), pp.7-8.]



## **Addenda:**

John Campbell is listed as age 10 in the home of his grandmother, Winnie Campbell (83, born VA), in the 1880 census of Daviess County, KY (Knottsville Precinct).



**Owensboro Daily Tribune, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 11 March 1896, p.1:**

115 Years Old.

"Old Aunt Winnie" Camiel [sic: should be Campbell], colored, died last Sunday at her old home three miles east of Knottsville. On the best authority she is reckoned at least 115 years of age. The writer remembers her son, now dead, as an old man twenty years ago. "Aunt Winnie" was born a slave in Virginia, where she had two children. Her daughter was taken South and sold and she never again heard of her.

A Mr. Lafoe brought her to Kentucky about sixty years ago and she belonged to the Lafoe family until the emancipation. Her master died while yet a young man, leaving Mrs. Lafoe (who still lives past 80 years of age with her son, Mr. James Lafoe, on Blackford creek) with two little boys. Aunt Winnie would not allow Mrs. Lafoe to hire a man, bur told her to attend to the house and see would manage the farm. She did all the work of a farmer for many years and made a good living for the family until the boys grew up. After coming free she lived with her son, grand children and great grand children. She was truly a diamond in the rough. Aunt Winnie was a christian and a good woman. She was most particular who her grand daughters married, and many a "black scoundrel" she chased off her farm with a hatchet. She was a good talker and, of course, possessed a store of interesting reminiscences.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 23 August 1903, p.8:**

WIDE DIFFERENCE IN DATES

That Will Appear On Slab at Grave of Winnie Campbell.

The firm of Mischel & Barkhaus has completed a small marble slab for the grave of Winnie Campbell, on which are inscribed the dates that show she was 115 years old when she died, March 8, 1896. The stone is to be erected over her grave, which is in the LaFoe graveyard, a few miles above Knottsville. The slab is being put up by her grandson, who is now an old man. It is authentic that the good old mammy nursed and reared three generations of the LaFoes. Many good things are still said of her by those who know her even in her declining days. None of her children are left, but some of her great-grandchildren still own a farm near her grave. She

was brought here a slave from Virginia in the early part of the last century. Her Maj. Campbell, died so long ago no living person remembers husband him.



The 1870 & 1880 censuses suggest Winnie Campbell was born about 1800, which indicates she was about 96 at her death. In the 1870 census of Daviess County, KY Winnie Campbell (age 70) is listed. She was living near Knottsville. She was listed two households after the residence of Mrs. Sarah Lafoe (age 52, born VA). Living with Winnie were her son, Colson Franklin (“Frank”) Campbell (33), his wife, Sarah (21) and their children, Winnie (4) & Eliza J. (1). Winnie Campbell (83, born VA) is in the 1880 census of Daviess County, KY (Knottsville Precinct). In her home in 1880 were the orphan children of her son, Frank Campbell – Winnie (14), Elizabeth J. (11), John (10), Sarah (7) and Franklin (5).

Winnie’s son, Frank Campbell, died on 22 November 1875 (age 43) and his wife, Jane Sarah, died on 26 November 1875 (age 29); they were buried in the Higdon Farm Cemetery on the Indian Hill Road, about four miles east of Knottsville, Daviess County, KY. The gravestone of Winnie A. Campbell in the Higdon Farm Cemetery has that she was the wife of Major Campbell and she died on 8 March 1896, at the age of 115 years. This cemetery was copied by Daisy Elliott in 1977 (see Daviess County, Kentucky Cemeteries, Volume I, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, McDowell Publications, Hartford, KY, 1977, pp.80-81). Also see the “Gordon Family Tree” on Ancestry.com.

James Lafoe (c1800-1852) married Sarah Evans (1818-1900) on 7 October 1839 in Caroline County, VA. During 1840-1850 they moved to Kentucky, where they were enumerated in the 1850 census of Barren County. In the 1850 census slave schedule of Barren County James Lafoe was reported to be the owner of 2 slaves – a female age 40 and male age 21. James’ widow, Sarah, is listed in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census. An obituary of James & Sarah’s daughter, Lucy Lafoe Temple (1842-1916) said she came to Kentucky with her parents when she was three and moved to Daviess County in 1854 (Owensboro Messenger, 25 January 1916, p.2).

