

# Rowan Cemetery

By Jerry Long  
c.2025



Rowan Family Cemetery is in Ohio County, KY on KY Highway 136 between Heflin and the Ohio – McLean County line on a farm owned by Rolla Richards, Jr.



**Kentucky Family Records, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Mrs. Edgar L. Cox, editor (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1983-84) pp.59-60:**

## ROWAN FAMILY BIBLE RECORD

The Rowan Family Bible is in possession of Mrs. Frances Moseley Hoover, Livermore, Ky. Was originally owned by Mrs. Minnie Rowan Moseley, deceased, wife of James Robert Moseley, also deceased, parents of Frances Moseley Hoover (Mrs. Randall Boyd).

William Rowan, second son of Andrew Rowan, was born in Ireland 1735, came to America with his father and married Sara Elizabeth Cooper, died 1800 in Nelson County, Kentucky, William Rowan was a Revolutionary Soldier. Children of William and Elizabeth Rowan:

- John Rowan born July 12, 1773 - married Annie Lytle at Bardstown, Ky.
- Stephen Rowan born about 1775 - married Katy Reed January 26, 1797
- Alice Rowan married (1) John Douglas - (2) Joshua Cooper Sept. 14, 1815
- Andrew Rowan married Sally Singleton August 11, 1807
- Nancy Rowan married Moses Cook December 18, 1788

Stephen Rowan, second son of above William Rowan, had the following children (wife, Katy Reed):

- William Rowan married Abbie Barnett
- John Rowan married (1) Marienda Lydia Stevens - (2) Sara Frances Bell
- Stephen Rowan married in Illinois
- Alexander Rowan M.D.
- Andrew Rowan – bachelor
- Daughter - died young

John Rowan second son of Steven Rowan born 1807, died January 31, 1882 Lydia Stevens Rowan, wife of John Rowan, born October 18th, 1820, died July 24th, 1853 at 7 o'clock in the

evening. Sara F. Bell Rowan, wife of John Rowan, born November 11, 1820, died December 19th, 1870 at 3 o' clock. John Rowan and Lydia Stevens married June 11, 1835, had the following children:

- Charlotte Ann Rowan born September 28th, 1836, died October 25, 1828
- Stephen William Rowan born June 4, 1838, died August 9, 1910 - bachelor
- Mary Catherine Rowan born December 1, 1841, died April 1916 - was married to John Sullivan
- John Andrew Rowan born April 4, 1844, died November 1876 - was married to Arabella Howard
- Alexander Rowan born November 8, 1846, died July 1847
- Alexander Cass born July 25th, 1848, died January 1, 1904 - married Sallie Hansford, had five children
- Augusta Lydia Rowan born July 22, 1851, died October 1851
- Thomas Henry Rowan born May 26, 1853, died August 6, 1853  
John Rowan and Sara F. Bell married 1857 - had four children:
- Elizabeth Rowan born June 27th, 1857, died August 15th, 1857
- Minnie Belle Rowan born January 4, 1858, died February 10th, 1929 - married James R. Moseley (had four children)
- Thomas E. (?) Rowan born October 1st, 1859, died November 19, 1885 - bachelor
- Sara Frances Rowan born April 20th, 1861, died May 21, 1941, married John Foley June 24, 1888 - had two children

Children of Minnie Belle Rowan and James Robert Moseley:

- Bessie Moseley born January 26, 1888, died September 1922 - was married to Oren Coin
- Rowan W. Moseley born September 27th, 1889, died August 4, 1890
- Roger Browder Moseley born August 31, 1893 - married Morea Turnage 1928
- Frances Elizabeth Moseley born January 16, 1897 - married Randall Boyd Hoover January 19, 1926

Children of Frances Elizabeth Moseley and Randall Boyd Hoover:

- Bess Moseley Hoover born January 12, 1927
- James Rowan Hoover born April 29, 1931

John Foley born July 30, 1860, died July 23, 1903. Children of Sara Frances Rowan and John Foley:

- Marie Foley born January 24, 1891 - married Lewis Richard Charlet
- Rowan Foley died January 10, 1947 - bachelor

## TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS IN OLD ROWAN CEMETERY

Located on the Old Rowan Farm near Hartford, Ohio County, Kentucky.  
(Copy on loose leaf in bible)

In Memory of Stephen Rowan who departed this life November 3rd, 1841 in the 76th year of his age

In Memory of Katherine Rowan who departed this life 28th June 1832, age---- (tombstone broken  
- large oak tree across grave)

Dr. A.R. Rowan born July 11th, 1798 - died July 6th 1878  
Dearest Father we will try to meet you when we die,  
Trusting ..... .. be our lot ...(other illegible)

America, Consort of A.R. Rowan, born July 28th 1810 - died May 20th 1865  
F.N.D.O.Z. B. T. K. C.

Lydia E., Wife of John Rowan, died July 24th 1853, aged 39 yrs. 9 mo. 6 days

Charlott dau. of John and L.E. Rowan died October 24 1838, ae 2yrs. 26 days

Thomas H., son of John and L.E. Rowan died August 6, 1853, age 2 mo. 10 days

Alexander, son of John and L.E. Rowan died July 17th 1847, age 8 mo. 8 days

Augusta L., dau. of John and L.E. Rowan died October 1851, age 2 mo. 24 days

Andrew J. Rowan died August 10th, 1852 in the 42nd year of his age

Sara Frances, wife of John Rowan, born November 11th 1820 - died December 19th 1870

Elizabeth, dan of John and S.F. Rowan, born June 27th 1857 - died August 15th 1857



**History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky, by Harry D. Tinsley**  
**(Frankfort, KY: Roberts Printing Company, 1953)**  
**pp.118-120, "No Creek Family Plots":**

The next burial plot is on Charles Whobrey's farm. It is the Rowan plot. There are thirteen simple upright markers of sandstone and marble. The most historical one buried here is Stephen Rowan who was the eldest son of Captain William Rowan, the other two being Andrew and John. The latter became a famous Kentucky jurist and legislator and the builder and, until his death, master of the typical Kentucky mansion, which he called "Federal Hill," now nationally known as the State's shrine, "My Old Kentucky Home," at Bardstown. It was a visit to this home which inspired Stephen Collins Foster, a relative of the Rowans, to write the immortal ballad for which the homestead is named.

Captain William Rowan, for whom the Livermore Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is named, was born in York County, Pennsylvania and was of Scotch-Irish lineage. His wife, born Sara Elizabeth Cooper, was a Quaker. Her parents were wealthy and Captain Rowan amassed a sizeable fortune before the American Revolution but their finances were greatly impaired by their gifts in behalf of their fellow patriots. After serving his state and country

in important offices, he was at the head of a volunteer company going to the front where he remained in service for six months, the period for which the men under his guard had enlisted.

At the close of the American Revolution, in the hope of repairing his shattered fortune, Captain Rowan emigrated to Kentucky, then a district of Virginia, in the wild lands of which, according to the autobiography of his son, Judge John Rowan, written in 1841, "he had, without any knowledge of the laws of Virginia or of the nature of the titles to land in Kentucky, invested the little remnant of his fortune." In October 1782 he set out in a flat-bottomed boat, of which he was the owner, with five families, from the Monongahela River, near the mouth of Redstone Creek, for the Falls of the Ohio River. His family consisted of his wife, his three sons and two daughters.

Judge Rowan recounts: "We expected a voyage of not more than six or seven days." In fact, they did not reach the Ohio Falls until March 1783, the journey having taken about five months, during which many hardships were suffered.

After remaining near the Ohio Falls until April 1784, the Rowans again set sail, with five families, for the "Long Falls of Green River," the site of the present town of Calhoun, but known first as Rhoadsville and then, for many years, as Vienna. Proceeding down the Ohio, the Rowan boats, one for the families and one for the cattle, ran into a party of Indians which threatened to attack the vessels, but were deterred by the watchfulness and show of preparedness of their occupants. This occurred a short distance above "the Yellow Banks," the present Owensboro. At the latter point the women and children and the cattle were landed and proceeded overland, a distance of about 25 miles, to "the long falls," while the boats went on down to the mouth of Green River and up that stream to the same destination, arriving, however, some time after the overland travelers. The emigrants arrived at the Green River falls on May 11, 1784. .

Stephen Rowan was born in 1765 and died November 3, 1841. His wife, born Katharine Reed and to whom he was married January 27, 1797, died June 28, 1832. They had five sons, all natives of Ohio County, viz.: Alexander R., Stephen Jr., John, Andrew and William Cooper. Only nine male descendants of Captain William and Stephen Rowan now live in Ohio County, I am informed by my good friend, Richard Ney Rowan, Route 3, who is a great-great-grandson of Captain Rowan. The others, bearing the family name, are Ney's son, Joseph Cullen, Sr., the latter's two sons, Joseph C., Jr., and Phillip Dale; the brothers, Shults, Alvis Edward and Claude Rowan; Dannie Edward, son of Alvis Ed, and Douglas Ray, son of Claude.

All these "Rowans by name" are descendants of Dr. Alexander R. Rowan, who was a member of the General Assembly as well as a successful physician. Ney is the grandson of Dr. Rowan's son, Richard Alexander, and the son of Azro V. Alvis Ed, Claude and Shults are the sons of the late Andrew Alexander and Mrs. Rowan who is still living. Their grandfather was John Butler, also a son of Dr. Rowan. Another son of Dr. Rowan's son, Richard A., was Robert Alexander Rowan, deceased, who left no male descendants. His widow lives in Livermore. It is to her I am indebted for the opportunity to consult copies of a biography of Judge Rowan and his uncompleted autobiography, which are in manuscript form. I am also indebted to Ney for the privilege of studying his copy of the Rowan genealogy back to the Scotland of 1543.

There are, of course, quite a number of descendants of Captain Rowan in Ohio County who do not bear the name of Rowan, either because of marriage or of descent on the distaff side.

Also buried in this cemetery are Dr. A. R. Rowan, born Jan. 11, 1798, died July 6, 1878; his wife, America, born July 28, 1810, died March 20, 1865; Andrew J. Rowan, who died April 10, 1852, age 41; Lydia E., wife of John Rowan, died July 24, 1853, aged 39 years 9 months and 6 days; Sarah F., wife of John Rowan, born November 11, 1820, died December 19, 1870, and five children of John Rowan, four by his first wife and one by his second. They all have markers

and range in ages from 2 months to 2 years. Lilla Girtrude, the twin to the late Mrs. Lattie Heflin and daughters of A. R. and America E. (Rowan) Pirtle, born May 8, 1872 and died August 16, 1872, is also buried here. There may be unmarked graves.



Another transcription of the Rowan Family Cemetery was done by Eugene Atherton, of Louisville, KY and published in the book, Ohio County, Kentucky Cemeteries, Volume V, Ohio County Historical Society (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1994) p.121.



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 10 May 1876, p.1:**

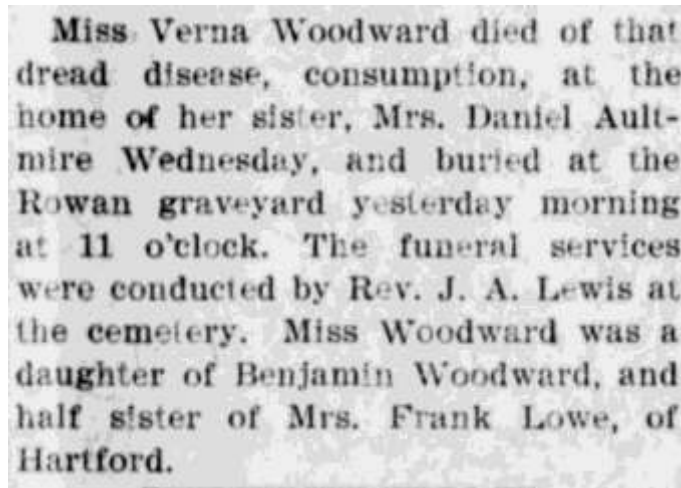
From Luck's Branch.

Editor Herald: – I believe it is a custom with correspondents to give a description of their cities, towns or localities, so I will try to follow suit. We are situated on Barnett's creek, some eight miles west of Hartford, near the old "trace" leading from the old fort at Hartford to Vienna (now Calhoun). The first settlement this part of the country was made by Stephen Rowan, the father of W. C. and A. R. Rowan. I believe there is no trace or marks of his residence left, except the graveyard....

ALPHA



**Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 7 June 1907, p.5:**



Miss Verna Woodward died of that dread disease, consumption, at the home of her sister, Mrs. Daniel Aultmire Wednesday, and buried at the Rowan graveyard yesterday morning at 11 o'clock. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. A. Lewis at the cemetery. Miss Woodward was a daughter of Benjamin Woodward, and half sister of Mrs. Frank Lowe, of Hartford.

