

Black Kentucky Pioneers:

Hamilton Cemetery

Whitesville, Daviess County, Ky.

By Jerry Long
c.2026



The Hamilton Cemetery is an African-American cemetery in the town of Whitesville, KY. The cemetery in records is also referred to as the Bryant's Chapel Cemetery and Whitesville Cemetery. On Highway 54 (Main Street) in Whitesville turn north onto the Old Leitchfield Road. Just past the Cates Cemetery and a curve the Hamilton Cemetery is behind the home of Kenneth Bar – the second house on the right from Highway 54.

The cemetery is a free and unincorporated burial ground. As a consequence the cemetery has no assigned caretaker. In 2002 a volunteer effort in clearing and restoring the cemetery was undertaken. The cemetery now (June 2026) is once again in a deteriorated state.

On 15 June 2026 I interviewed Joyce L. (Epison) Taylor of Whitesville, KY. Many of Mrs. Taylor's ancestors and relatives are buried in the Hamilton Cemetery. She is the daughter of William Walter Epison & Jessie Edith Norris and granddaughter of Earl Epison & Flora Ulysis Davis and Jesse Haywood Norris & Katie Mae Howard. Mrs. Taylor said the cemetery is named for a white Hamilton family who donated the land for the cemetery. Researching Hamilton deeds at the Daviess County Courthouse I was unable to locate a conveyance by which the cemetery was established.

A partial list of some burials in the Hamilton Cemetery is found on pages 5-20 of this article. Any additions would be appreciated. – Jerry Long j-long@prodgiy.net



History of Whitesville, Kentucky, Anna Hamilton & Don Greenwell **(Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1982) pp.175-176 (Biographical Sketches):**

Jessie Hayward (Bat) Norris was born January 27, 1901, at Thruston on the Will Horn farm. He is the son of Albert Norris and his wife, Emma Green Norris. Albert was born at Yelvington, Kentucky, the son of William Henry Norris and Rose Roberts. Emma Green was born two years after the slaves were freed. She is the daughter of Isaac Green and Molly Davis. Henry Isaac Green was a slave born in 1830. He is buried in an unmarked grave in a cemetery on Old Leitchfield Road.

Hayward Norris walks through the cemetery and calls the names of the ones buried there **[Note by Jerry Long – this is the Hamilton Cemetery.]** "Here is Aunt Mattie Valentine, she is mother's sister," he says, "Here in the first row is Mable Howard, the oldest grave here. They are my wife's people They were slaves, too. I think their owner was the Bells."

Walking to the second row, he says, "This is my father's row, my people are buried here. The first, Ufella Roberson, then Uncle Harry Davis, Isaac Clenton Norris, my brother, mother is the next, Emma Norris, Uncle Jim Norris, and here are my sisters, Mary Katy, Artie Helen, and Georgie May Norris."

"Over here is grandfather Henry Isaac Green and grandmother Molly. She was a Davis." "Do you remember the Pete Morton hill on Highway 54? Here is Pete's mother, Ufella, and there is his dad, Matt. Now John Jackson's row, then Clent Smith's row, followed with Lin Abel, Jess Jones, Jim Stone, and Grant Beacham's wife. All but five graves unmarked.

"Jessie Hayward Norris attended first Spice Knob school and then Green Chapel. When his father moved to Whitesville in 1915, he was 14 years old. He then started hauling coal from the George Edge, Lone Helm and later the Jim Shiveley coal mines and did this for 20 years. Then he started working inside the mines as a coal digger.

In Owensboro, he met and married Lovewell Howard's daughter, Catherine (Katty) May, on July 17, 1925. Katty May was born 15 April, 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. Norris bought some land at Whitesville on which was his grandfather's house. They have one daughter, Jessie Edith, who married an Epison. They have six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. One of their granddaughters, Marilyn Kaye Epison, is attending Western Kentucky University at Bowling Green, where she will graduate in December of 1982, Marilyn's goal is to be a lawyer.

Mr. Norris started working at the Wathen coal mines at Deanfield when they opened up and worked there for 35 years. He recalls the good and bad times with the mine. One incident occurred when there was a bad storm and lighting ran in on the wires and killed Marion Coomes, June 30, 1951. Another accident occurred later. At closing time at 4:00 p.m., they started out of the mine, The first cage out took the mules. The first one on the second cage was Bat Norris along with a load of others. The third cage would bring up the rest. Finding some of the equipment missing, Joe Russelburg and another man went back to fetch it. When the engineer, L. J. Kaysinger got the cage up to 40 feet, the cable broke and the cage fell all the way down. All five men were injured, Harry Colman, Harvey Dockery, Junior Rice and his brother and Homer Hawes.

Bat went directly to a telephone, which was about a hundred yards away. It was a party line and two ladies were talking. He said they will all be dead before I can get help. This was overheard by an operator who sent help to the Deanfield mines.

When Dr. Ellis Day arrived from Whitesville, he was lowered into the mine. He said it would have been fatal to some of them, if they hadn't got help from the two men that were left in the mine.

Mr. Norris worked the rest of the winter and resigned, and went to work at the Owensboro Planing Mill, where he stayed for 15 years. He is. now retired.



Jessie Haywood Norris, who was interviewed for the prior biographical sketch married Katie Mae Howard 17 July 1925 Owensboro, KY. He died 30 March 1996. He and his wife were buried in the Cates Cemetery, Whitesville, Daviess County, KY. His obituary follows next.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 31 March 1996, p.2C;



Jessie 'Bat' Norris

Jessie Haywood "Bat" Norris, 95, of 10544 Durinda St., Whitesville, died Saturday, March 30, 1996, at Hillcrest Health Care Center in Owensboro. He was born in Yelvington, was retired from Jagoe's Daviess County Planning Mill and was a member of Bryant Chapel Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon for the last 75 years. His wife, Katie Mae Norris, died Feb. 3, 1989.

Survivors include a daughter, Jessie Edith Epison of Whitesville; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; a sister, Mattie Howard of Owensboro; and a nephew.

Services are at 2 p.m. Monday at Bryant Chapel Baptist Church in Whitesville. Burial will be in Cates Cemetery in Whitesville. Visitation is from 4 to 8 p.m. today and from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday at McFarland Funeral Home in Owensboro. There is also visitation from noon until services Monday at the church.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 3 May 2002, p.5C:

Bryant's Chapel cleaning Hamilton Cemetery

Bryant's Chapel Baptist Church, Whitesville, is looking for volunteers to help clean Hamilton Cemetery.

No one has been buried in the church cemetery since 1981, said church member Jessie Epison, who is one of the organizers of the effort. She said when church members get the grave sites cleared and grass mowed, they may choose Hamilton for their final resting place.

Volunteers will meet from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 11, 18 and 25 at the cemetery. Participants are asked to bring their own rakes and other tools.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 17 May 2002, p.6C:

Cleanup of Hamilton Cemetery under way; help requested

By Mark Cooper, Messenger-Inquirer



Perhaps inspired by success at Greenwood Cemetery, a tiny black church in Whitesville is beginning to restore a cemetery of black residents there – and could use a little help.

Bryant's Chapel Baptist Church, which has about 15 active members, began cleanup work at Hamilton Cemetery last weekend. Church members and other volunteers will be there Saturday and again May 25, church secretary Jessie Epison said.

The cemetery on Old Leitchfield Road just east of Whitesville is about 100 years old and contains an unknown number of graves, perhaps as many as 200, Epison said.

"Until recently, I didn't even know that the church owned it, and I've been down there six years," said the Rev. Larry W. Boards of Bowling Green. "Since it belongs to the church, it's our duty to get it cleaned up."

The first day of the cleanup attracted only six volunteers, "but if we can keep going at it like we are, we can get it done," Boards said. "There's been some volunteers to do the mowing and spraying."

Trees in the cemetery may be cut and sold for lumber to help pay for the cemetery's upkeep, Boards said.

"We only had six people, but we got a lot of underbrush mowed down, and we trimmed some trees," Epison said. The cemetery has been the main burial spot for most of the members of Bryant's Chapel Baptist Church, which is at 10570 Jefferson St.

"The cemetery has been growing up and growing up," Epison said. "It has been cleaned before, but we didn't have enough members. We just have a few people here, but we're trying to get the graveyard cleaned up so that if someone dies and they want to be buried there, there'd be room for them. There's room for more graves."

Epison followed the cleanup of Greenwood Cemetery on Leitchfield Road in Owensboro and thinks that effort could be repeated in Whitesville.

"I've got some people buried there in Greenwood," Epison said. "I thought it was wonderful. They've done a beautiful job."

Greenwood Cemetery is the burial place for many blacks from the Owensboro area, including veterans of the Spanish-American War, World War I and II and at least one Civil War veteran.

The restoration of that cemetery began in 1996 by a volunteer group. Daviess Fiscal Court bought the cemetery last year.

To Get Involved – Volunteers interested in helping restore Hamilton Cemetery near Whitesville should bring their own rakes and tools to the site on Old Leitchfield Road just east of Whitesville. For more information, call 275-4511.



Able, Annie Leticia (Rhodes)

16 February 1871

21 February 1944

Kentucky death certificate 1944 - #3791: Annie L. Able died 21 February 1944 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; colored; born 16 February 1871 KY; age 73; widowed; daughter of Henry Rhodes (born KY) & Rachel Marlow (born KY); died of a tumor; informant Hallie Smith; buried February 24 Hamilton Cemetery.

Note – Annie Rhodes married Ben Harrison Epperson / Epison 4 November 1887 Daviess County, KY and Len Able 10 January 1912 Daviess County, KY.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 24 February 1944, p.8:

Annie Able, 73, respected negro of Whitesville, died at her home at 6 p.m. Monday. She is survived by three daughters, Ethel and Veatrice Epison and Hallie Smith, a son, Earl Epison, and four grandchildren. The funeral will be conducted at 2 p.m. in the Church of Whitesville, with the Rev. Dennings, Owensboro, officiating. Burial will the Hamilton cemetery, at Whitesville.



Able, James Sarah

1 September 1884

19 April 1946

Kentucky death certificate 1946 - #8295: James S. Able died 19 April 1946 Daviess County, KY; colored; born 1 September 1884 KY; age 61-7-18; farmer; married; son of Len Able (born KY) & Judy Burks (born KY); died of cerebral hemorrhage; informant Ethel Able; buried Hamilton Cemetery.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 20 April 1946, p.8:

James S. Able, 61, respected Negro citizen of Whitesville, died at his home here Friday. He is survived by a step-brother, Earl Epison, and two sisters, Ethel Epison and Hollie Smith, all of Whitesville.

The funeral services will be conducted at 2 p. m. Sunday in the Church of God at Whitesville, with Sister Jewell officiating. Burial will be in the Hamilton cemetery, at Whitesville.



Able, Judia (Burks)

1860

1900-1910

Note – daughter of Sarah Burks, who was born c1823 Virginia and is listed in the Daviess County, KY 1870 and Ohio County, KY 1880 census; Judia, also listed as Judy & Judith, married Lenard Able 15 February 1883 Ohio County, KY.



Able, Lenard, "Len"

1861

1920-1930

Note – age 9 in the 1870 Daviess County, KY census; Len son of Nelly Able born c1830 KY, she died after 1880 Daviess County, KY census; Len married Judia Burks 15 February 1883 Ohio County, KY and Mrs. Annie Rhodes Epison 10 January 1912 Daviess County, KY.



Able, Mattie Elizabeth

16 September 1912

26 February 1913

Kentucky death certificate 1913 - #3955: Mattie Elizabeth Able died 26 February 1913 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; Black; born 16 September 1912 Whitesville, KY; age 5 months & 10 days; daughter of Len Able (born Daviess County, KY) & Annie Rhodes (born Ohio County, KY); died of la grippe; informant Len Able; buried February 28 Whitesville. [no obituary found]



Beechman, Jennie C.

1 July 1856

8 September 1942

Kentucky death certificate 1942 - #19658: Jennie C. Beechman died 8 September 1942 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; colored; born 1 July 1856 KY; age 86-2-7; married; wife of Grant Beechman; daughter of __ Robertson & unknown; died of carcinoma of colon; informant Grant Beechman; buried September 10 Hamilton Cemetery.

Note – surname also appears as Beacham and Beauchamp.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 10 September 1942, p.2:

Jennie C. Beechman, 86, died at her home near Whitesville, at 7 p. m. Tuesday, after an illness of five months. She is survived by her husband, Grant Beechman, and two nephews, Demjester Robertson, Evansville, Ind., and Wilbur, Robertson, , Lexington, Ky.

Funeral services will be conducted at Bryant Chapel Baptist church at 11 a. m. Thursday. Burial will be in Hamilton cemetery.



Bennett, Delcie (Cooper)

1878-1879

4 March 1962

Indiana death certificate 1957 - #10940: Delcie Bennett died 4 March 1962 Evansville, Vanderburgh County, IN; negro; born 1882 Daviess County, KY; age 80; daughter of unknown; died of heart disease; informant Mrs. Mary Cowerd; buried March 8 local cemetery.

Note – daughter of William Washington French; Dilcie Cooper married Robert Robertson 18 July 1909 Breckinridge County, KY; Mrs. Dilseie Robertson married James A. Miller 25 December 1914 Ohio County, KY; Mrs. Delsie Miller married Robert Henry Bennett 28 December 1922 Ohio County, KY.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 8 March 1962, p.10A:

Mrs. DILCIA BENNETT - Funeral services for Mrs. Dilcia (Babe) Bennett, 85, of Whitesville, who died at 10 p.m. Sunday at an Evansville, Ind., hospital, will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday in Bryant Chapel Baptist Church. The Rev. Kyler Johnson will officiate. Burial will be in the Whitesville Cemetery.

She was a native of Ohio County, and a member of the Bryant Chapel Baptist Church.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Ada White, of Hayti, Mo.; one son, James Cooper; one grandson, James Edison; one half sister, Mrs. Georgia Howard, and one half brother, Hallis French, all of Daviess County.

The body is at the Haynes Funeral Home here.



Bogan, Martha Ellen (Davis)

11 October 1888

21 April 1947

Kentucky death certificate 1947 - #7988: Martha Ellen Bogan died 21 April 1947 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; Black; born 11 October 1888 Daviess County, KY; age 58-6-10; widowed; daughter of Harry Davis & Lucy Reed; died of chronic myocarditis; informant Roberta Bogan; buried April 24 Hamilton Cemetery.

Note – Ellen Davis married Monroe Bogan 19 April 1910 Daviess County, KY.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 24 November 1947, p.12:

Martha Ellen Bogan, 70, colored, died at her home in Whitesville at 6 p.m. Monday.

Surviving two sons, Elwood, Cleveland, O., Monroe, Washington, D. C.; two daughters, Golda Johnson, Cleveland, and Roberta Epison, Whitesville; one sister, Thresia Spalding, Cleveland, O.; one brother, Samuel Davis, Cleveland; eight grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at the Bryant Chapel, Whitesville, at 2 p. m. Thursday, the Rev. B. F. Green, officiating, with burial in the Hamilton cemetery, Whitesville.



Davis, Harry

22 January 1852

20 November 1913

Kentucky death certificate 1913 - #29009: Harry Davies died 20 November 1913 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 22 January 1852 Daviess County, KY; age 61-9-28; married; son of Sam Davies (born Marion County, KY) & Martha McCarty (born not known); died of cerebral hemorrhage; informant Louvoria Thomas; buried November 21 Whitesville.

Note – son of Samuel Davis, who was born c1827 KY and died after the Daviess County, KY 1900 census, Samuel was then widowed and living with his daughter Mollie Green; Harry Davis married Lucy Mattingly 30 August 1876 Daviess County, KY; no obituary found.



Epison, Ben Harrison

March 1860

17 January 1904

Note – surname also appears as Epperson; married Annie Leticia Rhodes 4 November 1887 Daviess County, KY; listed in 1880 & 1900 Daviess County, KY censuses.

Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 22 January 1904, p.5:

Knottsville, Ky., Jan. 18 – Ben Epison, the only negro in the limits of Knottsville, died Sunday morning and was buried Monday at Whitesville.



Epison, Flora Ulysis (Davis)

31 March 1894

9 November 1933

Kentucky death certificate 1933 - #25609: Flora Ulysis Epison died 9 November 1933 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 31 March 1894 Daviess County, KY; age 39-7-9; married; daughter of unknown & Lucy Davis (born Daviess County, KY; died of abscess; informant Earl Epison; buried November 12 Hamilton Cemetery.

Note – Flora Davis married Earl Epison 9 June 1914 Daviess County, KY; husband, James Lewis Earl Epison (1894-1965) was buried Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; no obituary found for Flora.



Epison, Jenney Beatrice

8 June 1899

16 December 1944

Kentucky death certificate 1944 - #26359: Jenney Veatrice Epison died 16 December 1944 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; colored; born 8 June 1899 Knottsville, KY; age 45-6-8; single; daughter of Ben Harrison Epison (born KY) & Anna Rhodes (born KY); died of nephritis; informant Ethel Epison; buried December 19 Hamilton Cemetery.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 17 December 1944, p.2:

Jenney Beatrice Epison, 45, colored, died at her home at Whitesville, at 6 a.m. Saturday. She is survived by two sisters, Hallie Smith, Ethel Epison, and two brothers, Earl Epison and James Abel, all of Whitesville. Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday from the Church of the Living God, with Bishop P. H. Dennings officiating. Burial will be in the Hamilton cemetery.



Epison, Mary Jane

24 January 1897

17 March 1915

Kentucky death certificate 1915 - #6419: Mary Jane Epison died 17 March 1915 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; Black; born 24 January 1897 Daviess County, KY; age 18-1-

23; daughter of Ben Epison (born Marion County, KY) & Annie Rhodes (born Hancock County, KY); died of tonsillitis; informant Annie Abel; buried March 19 Whitesville. [no obituary found]



Epison, William Mitchell

11 February 1956

22 December 1958

Kentucky death certificate 1958 - #28105: William Mitchell Epison died 22 December 1958 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; negro; born 11 February 1956 Whitesville, KY: age 2; son of Walter Epison & Jessie Norris; died of acute pneumonia; informant Walter Epison; buried December 22 Hamilton Cemetery.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 23 December 1958, p.4:

William Mitchell Epison, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Epison of Whitesville, died Monday at p.m. after an illness of three days.

He is also survived by four sisters, Patsy Elaine, Joyce Lorene, Kathy Louise and Uylessa Mae; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Norris, Whitesville, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Epison, Owensboro.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Chapel Baptist Church with burial in Hamilton cemetery.

The body is at the home of his parents in Whitesville.

Note – father, William Walter Epison (1917-1991) is buried in Cates Cemetery, Whitesville, KY; mother, Jessie Edith (Norris) Epison (1928-2023) was cremated and has not been interred.



Green, Henry Isaac, “Ike”

April 1847

5 June 1935

Note – Isaac age 22 in the Daviess County, KY 1870 census; Ike Green married Mollie Davis 1 February 1877 Daviess County, KY; no obituary found.

Kentucky death certificate 1935 - #13710: Isiah Green died 5 June 1935 Daviess County, KY; Black; born __; age 73; married; son of ? Dock Green & not known; died of chronic diabetes; informant Ernest Green; buried June 6 Hamilton Cemetery.



Green, Mary (Davis), “Mollie”

12 March 1845

12 July 1930

Kentucky death certificate 1930 - #16325: Mollie Green died 12 July 1930 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 12 March 1845 Daviess County, KY; age 85-4-0; widowed; wife of Isaac Green; daughter of Sam Davis (born Daviess County, KY) & unknown; died of chronic nephritis; informant Mattie Valentine; buried July 13 Whitesville Cemetery. [no obituary found]

Note – Mollie daughter of Samuel Davis, who was born c1827 KY and died after the Daviess County, KY 1900 census, he was then widowed.



Hibbitt, Aryionna

2004

5 February 2005

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 8 February 2005, p.2C:

Aryionna Hibbitt, 3 months, of 722 Sycamore St., Owensboro, died Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005, at Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville.

Survivors include her parents, Rolloee Hibbitt and Tysha Martin; a brother, Xavier Shaw; her maternal grandparents, Martha Stevenson and Melvin Stevenson; her paternal grandparent, Patsy Boards; her stepgrandfather, the Rev. Larry Boards; her paternal great-grandparent, Jessie Epison; her stepgrandmother, Vergie Shaw.

Services: 1 p.m. Wednesday at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Burial: Hamilton Cemetery in Whitesville. Visitation: From 6 to 8 p.m. today and after 11 a.m. Wednesday at the church.



Hinkle, Henrietta (Norris)

3 October 1913

30 December 1981

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 1 January 1982, p.2C:

Henrietta Hinkle, 68, of 601 Maple St., Owensboro, died Wednesday, Dec. 30, 1981, at Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital. She was born in Yelvington and was a member of Bryant Chapel Baptist Church, Whitesville.

Survivors include two brothers, William Norris Sr. of Owensboro and Haywood Norris of Whitesville; a sister, Mattie Norris of Owensboro; 10 stepchildren of Louisville; five nieces and a nephew.

Services are at 1 p.m. Saturday at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. Burial in Whitesville Cemetery. Visitation from 4 to 8 p.m.

Note – Henrietta daughter of Albert Norris & Emma Green.



Howard, Ben, "Bennie"

30 October 1879

7 April 1916

Kentucky death certificate 1916 - #10150: Bennie Howard died 7 April 1916 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 30 October 1879 Daviess County, KY; age 36-6-7; widowed; farmer; son of William Howard (born KY) & Alice Epison (born Mercer County, KY); died of cerebral spinal meningitis; informant J. L. Howard; buried April 8 Whitesville.

Note – Ben Howard married Mabel Rhodes 25 May 1904 Daviess County, KY; no obituary found.



Howard, Edith Catherine (Rhodes)

16 Jun 1880

16 August 1949

Kentucky death certificate 1949 - #15726: Edith Catherine Howard died 16 August 1949 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; colored; born 16 June 1880 Ohio County, KY; age 69; married; daughter of Henry Rhoades & Rachel Marlow; died of myocarditis; informant James Howard; buried August 18 Whitesville.

Note – also appears with the nickname of “Katie”; Katie Rhodes married James Lowell Howard 19 October 1899 Daviess County, KY.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 18 August 1949, p.2:

Edith Catherine Howard, 69, died at her home in Whitesville at 8:25 p. m. Tuesday after a one-year illness.

Surviving are the husband, James Howard, Whitesville; one daughter, Kattie Mae Norris, Whitesville; one son, William Henry Howard, Owensboro; one sister, Sarah Jane Mitchel, Chicago, Ill.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. today in the Bryant Chapel Baptist church, Whitesville, the Rev. B. F. Green, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Hamilton cemetery, Whitesville.

The body is at the Haynes funeral home.



Howard, Estella (Jewell)

9 June 1905

3 April 1963

Kentucky death certificate 1963 - #9036: Estella Howard died 3 April 1963 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; colored; born 9 June 1905 Daviess County, KY; age 57; married; daughter of Edward Jewell & Bertha Douglas; died of uremia; informant William Howard; buried April 6 Whitesville.

Note – Stella Jewell married William Henry Howard 26 May 1927 Spencer County, IN; he died in 1973 and was buried Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 4 April 1963, p.8:

Mrs. Estella Howard, 57, of 614 Poplar St., died Tuesday night at Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital after an illness of six years. Born June 9, 1905, in Daviess County, she had lived her entire life in Owensboro and was a member of the St. Paul A.M.E. Church. For several years she was a cook at Western High School.

She is survived by her husband, William H. Howard; three sons, William Edward Howard, James Allen Howard and Otha Neil Howard all of Owensboro; four sisters, Virginia Burns, Betty Black and Elizabeth Kennedy, all of Owensboro, and Maggie Brown of Evansville, and one grandson.

The body is at the Griffith Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday in St. Paul A. M. E. Church, the Rev. P. H. Jones, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in a Whitesville Cemetery.



Howard, J. D.

12 October 1919

24 January 1922

Kentucky death certificate 1922 - #581: J. D. Howard died 24 January 1922 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 12 October 1919 Daviess County, KY; age 2-3-12; son of John Howard (born Daviess County, KY) & Katie May Howard (born Daviess County, KY); died of ptomaine poison; informant; H. C. Rhodes buried January 25 Whitesville.



Howard, James L.

12 January 1923

30 January 1923

Kentucky death certificate 1923 - #706: James L. Howard died 30 January 1923 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; Black; born _; age 2 weeks & 4 days; son of William Howard & Stella Jewell; died of malnutrition; informant Stella Jewell; buried Whitesville. [no obituary found]



Howard, James Lowell

20 January 1874

30 August 1962

Kentucky death certificate 1962 - #19814: James Lowell Howard died 30 August 1962 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; colored; born 20 January 1874 Knottsville, KY; age 88; widowed; son of William Howard & Alice Epison; died of cerebro vascular thrombosis; informant William Howard; buried August 31 Whitesville.

Note – James L. Howard married Katie Rhodes 19 October 1899 Daviess County, KY.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 30 August 1962, p.14A:

James Lowell Howard, of 614 Poplar St., died at 7:30 a.m. Thursday at the Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital, following a long illness

He was a retired farmer of the Knottsville section, where he was born on Jan. 20, 1874, and had lived up until 12 years ago when he moved to Owensboro. He was a member of the Bryant Chapel Baptist Church, Knottsville, and of the Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 20.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Katie Mae Norris; one son, William H. Howard; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one brother, John Howard, all of Daviess County, and several nieces and nephews.

The body is at the Griffith Funeral Home.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 1 September 1962, p.6A:

Note – Sylvia Davis married John B. Jackson 11 May 1872 Daviess County, KY; no obituary found.



Jones, Jesse 25 December 1842 3 October 1921

Kentucky death certificate 1921 - #21222: Jess Jones died 3 October 1921 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 25 December 1842 Alabama; age 78-8-8; married; son of not known; died of heart disease; informant Genet Stone; buried October 5 Whitesville.

Note – Jesse Jones married Emaline Dido 3 November 1870 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; he received a military pension for his service in the Union Army, 122nd U. S. Colored Infantry, during the Civil War.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 6 October 1921, p.8:

"Squire" Jesse Jones, aged about 80, one of the best known negroes of the eastern end the county, died at his home near Whitesville on Tuesday. He has been a well known figure around Whitesville for fifty years.



Lewis, Georgia Mae 30 July 1912 8 August 1935

Kentucky death certificate 1935 - #19299: Georgie Mae Lewis died 8 August 1935 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; negro; born 30 July 1912 Daviess County, KY; age 24; daughter of Albert Norris (born Daviess County, KY) & Emma Green (born Daviess County, KY); died of pulmonary tuberculosis; informant Albert Norris; buried Aug 10 Whitesville. [no obituary found]



Morton, Eufaula 12 February 1927 12 March 1927

Kentucky death certificate 1927 - #5480: Eufaula Morton died 12 March 1927 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 12 February 1927 Daviess County, KY; age 1 month; daughter of Pete Morton (born Hancock County, KY) & Mary Daviess (born Daviess County, KY), died of bronchial pneumonia; informant Pete Morton; buried March 12 Bryant's Chapel. [no obituary found]



Morton, Mary Lou (Davis) 1883-1884 7 June 1957

Kentucky death certificate 1957 - #11448: Mary L. Morton died 7 June 1957 Hopkinsville, Christian County, KY; negro; born 1883 KY; age 74; married; daughter of unknown; died of coronary occlusion; informant Western State Hospital records; buried 10 June 1957 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY

Note – Mary L. Davis married Pete Morton, 25 December 1901 Hancock County, KY.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 10 June 1957, p.4:

Mrs. Mary Lou Morton Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Lou Morton, 73, Whitesville, who died Friday, were conducted at 2 p. m. today at Bryant's Chapel Baptist Church. Burial was in Whitesville Cemetery.

A native of Daviess County, Mrs. Morton had lived in Whitesville for 20 years. She was a member of Bryant's Chapel.

Surviving are the husband, Pete Morton, Whitesville; four daughters, Mrs. Leona Russell, Mrs. Christina Brown, Mrs. Geneva Jones, Mrs. Virginia Fountain; two sons, Richard McCarty, Marvin Morton, all of Detroit; five sisters, Mrs. Mattie Hunter, Gary, Ind., Mrs. Maggie Griffith, Lima, Ohio; Mrs. Bertha Stephens, Kansas City, Mo., Mrs. Florence Clay, Detroit, Mrs. Flora Morton, Cloverport; a brother, McKinley Davis, Evansville; 21 grandchildren; and several great grandchildren.



Morton, Matthew

20 April 1869

9 March 1932

Kentucky death certificate 1932 - #5489: Mathew Morton died 9 March 1932 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 20 April 1869 Hancock County, KY; age 62-10-11; farmer, widowed; wife Lizia Morton; son of James Morton & Sallie Ann Reeves; fell dead; informant Mary L. Morton; buried March 11 Hamilton Cemetery.

Note – Matthew Morton married Eliza Jones 8 November 1887 Hancock County, KY; no obituary found for him; Eliza was born 7 May 1869 Breckinridge County, KY and died 31 January 1919 Hancock County, KY, she was buried Morton Cemetery near Cloverport, KY.



Norris, Albert

2 September 1875

14 June 1970

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 15 June 1970, p.10A:

Albert Norris, 95, the oldest resident of Whitesville, died Sunday morning at his home. He was a member and deacon of Bryant Chapel Baptist Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Henrietta Hinkle and Mrs. Mattie Howard, both of Owensboro; two sons, Haywood Norris of Whitesville and William N. Norris of Owensboro; three grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandchild.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Bryant Chapel Baptist Church conducted by the Rev. Elmo Brown, pastor. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Martin Funeral Home after noon today.

Note – Albert son of William Henry Norris & Rose Roberts; married Emma Green 9 November 1899 Daviess County, KY.



Norris, Artie Helen

6 April 1919

8 October 1932

Kentucky death certificate 1932 - #23093: Helen Norris died 8 October 1932 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; negro; born Whitesville, KY; age 14-6-3; single; daughter of Albert Norris (born Yelvington, KY) Emma Green (born Ensor, KY; died of toxemia; informant Albert Norris; buried Whitesville. [no obituary found]



Norris, Emma (Green)

7 November 1879

21 May 1922

Kentucky death certificate 1922 - #10814: Mrs. Emma Norris died 21 May 1922 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 7 November 1882 Daviess County, KY; age 39-6-14; married; daughter of Ike Green (born Daviess County, KY) & Mollie Davies (born not known); died of tuberculosis of the lungs; informant Albert Norris; buried May 22 Whitesville.

Note – Emma daughter of Isaac Green & Mary Davis; married Albert Norris 9 November 1899 Daviess County, KY; no obituary found.



Norris, Isaac Clinton

13 May 1909

17 April 1922

Kentucky death certificate 1922 - #8687: Isic C. Norris died 17 April 1922 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 13 May 1909 Daviess County, KY; age 12-11-4; son of Albert Norris (born Daviess County, KY) & Emma Green (born Daviess County, KY); died of sleeping sickness; informant Albert Norris; buried April 19 Whitesville. [no obituary found]



Norris, Mary Katherine

28 January 1905

20 March 1930

Kentucky death certificate 1930 - #6011: Mary Katherine Norris died 20 March 1930 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 28 January 1905 Yelvington, KY; age 25-1-20; single; daughter of Albert Norris (born Yelvington, KY) & Emma Green (born Yelvington, KY; died of tuberculosis of the lungs; informant Albert Norris; buried March 22 Hamilton Cemetery. [no obituary found]



Norris, Mattie Lucy, "Nannie"

30 April 1916

26 August 2003

Note – daughter of Albert Norris & Emma Green; Mattie Lucy Norris married Frank James Howard 24 November 1943 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, they were divorced in August 1965 in Daviess County, KY.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 27 August 2003, p.2B:

Mattie L. "Nannie" Norris, 87, of 520 Plum St., Apt. H., died Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2003, at her home. She was born in Yelvington and was a housekeeper for Jack and Patsy Berry. She was a member of the Fourth Street Baptist Church and the Senior Companions of Owensboro. She was a former member of Sunbeam Circle of Fourth Street Baptist Church. She loved cooking and fostering children in the community. She also enjoyed collecting antiques.

Survivors include two foster sons, Ricky Adams of Owensboro and Thomas Griffin of New York City; four daughters, Anna (and Irvin) Douglas, Patricia Wesley Johnson, Tanya James and Zandra (and Benny) Johnson, all of Owensboro; 12 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; a niece, Jessita Epison of Whitesville; and a nephew, William Norris of Tucson, Ariz.

Services are at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, at Fourth Street Baptist Church in Owensboro. Burial will be in Cates Cemetery in Whitesville. Visitation is from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the church. McFarland Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 28 August 2003, p.2B:

Norris, Mattie L., 87, died Tuesday. Services: 2 p.m. Friday at Fourth Street Baptist Church in Owensboro. Burial: Hamilton Cemetery in Whitesville. Visitation: From 6 to 8 p.m. today at the church. McFarland Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Editor's note: Burial information for Mattie Norris has changed.



Norris, William Henry

19 March 1903

2 September 1988

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 5 September 1988, p.2C:

William Henry "Bill" Norris, 85, of Hillcrest Health Care Center, Owensboro, died Friday, Sept. 2, 1988, at Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital. He was born in Yelvington, was retired from Glenmore Distilleries Co., and was a member of Fourth Street Baptist Church where he served as a deacon. He was a past commander of UBF Lodge of Owensboro. His wife, Ophelia Norris, died Nov. 7, 1982.

Survivors include a son, William H. Norris Jr. of Phoenix, Ariz.; a brother, Jessie Haywood Norris of Whitesville; a sister, Mrs. Mattie Norris Howard of Owensboro; and two nieces, Mrs. Jessie Edith Epison of Whitesville and Mrs. Anna Douglas of Owensboro.

Services are at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Fourth Street Baptist Church. Burial in Hamilton Cemetery, Whitesville. Visitation from 2-8 p.m. Tuesday at Young's • Funeral Home.

Note – William Henry Norris was the son of Albert Norris & Emma Green; his wife, Ophelia Hunter Norris (1903-1989), was buried in the Resurrection Cemetery, Philpot, Daviess County, KY.



Rhoads, Henry Clay, “Bay”

15 July 1875

1 December 1946

Kentucky death certificate 1946 - #25559: Henry Clay Rhoads, Jr. died 1 December 1946 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; Black; born 15 July 1875 Hancock County, KY; age 71-4-16; married; wife Artelia Rhoads; farm laborer; son of Henry Clay Rhoads Sr. (born KY) & Rachel Marlow (born KY); died of chronic myocarditis; informant Hallie Smith; buried December 3 Hamilton Cemetery.

Note – age 6 in Daviess County, KY 1880 census; married Artelia, “Artie” 1903-1904, she died 25 September 1957 in Chicago, IL, where she was buried.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 3 December 1946, p.2:

Henry C. (Bay) Rhoads, 71, died at 6 p. m. Sunday at his home at Whitesville. Surviving are his widow, Artelia Rhoads; two sisters, Sarah Mitchem, Chicago, Ill., and Katie Howard, Whitesville, and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be conducted at Bryant Chapel, Whitesville at 2 p. m. today, the Rev. O. C. Groom officiating. Burial will be in the Hamilton cemetery.



Rhodes, Henry

c1835

5 July 1913

Note – Henry Rhodes married Rachel (Marlow) McFerren 6 March 1869 Hancock County, KY; Henry Rhodes married Caroline (Marlow) Stone 4 August 1886 Daviess County, KY; no obituary found.

Kentucky death certificate 1913 - #18274: Henry Roads died 5 July 1913 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; Black; born 1835 Daviess County, KY; age 78; farmer; widowed; son of Hilrey Rhodes (born Shelby County, KY); died of pneumonia; informant H. C. Rhodes; buried July 6 Whitesville.



Smith, Henry Clinton, “Clint”

4 February 1888

19 April 1954

Note – married Pearl Leaner Rhodes 27 August 1909 Daviess County, KY; married Fannie Goff 31 December 1918 Daviess County, KY; married Georgia Taylor 17 December 1929 Daviess County, KY; married Hallie Epison 18 October 1941 Daviess County, KY. Hallie Epison Smith (1901-1980) was buried Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY.

Kentucky death certificate 1954 - #7898: Henry Clinton Smith died 19 April 1954 Fordsville, Ohio County, KY; Black; born 4 February 1888; age 66; married; son of William Smith & unknown; died of heart attack; railroad employee; informant Mrs. Hallie Smith; buried Hamilton Cemetery, Daviess County, KY.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 20 April 1954, p.4:

Clint Smith, 66, railroad employe, Whitesville, died suddenly at 8:30 a. m. Monday in Fordsville.

He was a member of the Church of God, Whitesville. He was employed by the Illinois Central Railroad for 37 years.

Surviving are his wife, Hallie Smith, two sons, J. C., Vincennes, Ind., Herman, Indianapolis, two daughters, Mary Davidson and Anna Green. Vincennes, 12 grandchildren, two great two brothers, Charles, Chicago, Ill., Webster, Danville, Ill.

Body is at his late residence, Whitesville.



Smith, Lucy (Davis)

16 February 1881

13 March 1927

Kentucky death certificate 1927 - #5481: Mrs. Lucy Smith died 13 March 1927 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 16 February 1881 Daviess County, KY; age 46-0-27; married; daughter of Solomon Davis (born Daviess County, KY) & Diana Whitlock (born Daviess County, KY); ureamic poison; informant ? Gearlie B. Smith; buried 15 March 1927 Bryant Chapel.

Note – Lucy Davis married Charlie Smith 7 September 1905 Daviess County, KY. Solomon Davis married Diana Whitlock 28 December 1871 Daviess County, KY; no obituary for Lucy Smith found.



Smith, Pearl Leaner (Rhodes)

4 November 1889

21 January 1918

Kentucky death certificate 1918 - #718: Pearly Leaner Smith died 21 January 1918 Daviess County, KY; colored; born 4 November 1889 Daviess County, KY; age 28-3-18; married; daughter of Henry Rhodes & Francis Stone; died of tuberculosis of the lungs; informant Clint Smith; buried January 22 Whitesville.

Note – Pearl Rhodes married Henry Clinton Smith 27 August 1909 Daviess County, KY; no obituary found.



Stone James H.

25 December 1871

6 August 1926

Kentucky death certificate 1926 - #19704: James H. Stone died 6 August 1926 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; Black; born 25 December 1871 Hancock County, KY; age 54-7-11; married; son of Simon Stone (born Tennessee) & Caroline Marlow (born Hancock County, KY), informant Annie Abel; buried August 8 Whitesville.

Note – married Jenette, 1897-1898; no obituary found.



Stone, Otis

22 March 1908

12 December 1920

Kentucky death certificate 1920 - #29346: Otis Stone died 12 December 1920 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 22 March 1908 Daviess County, KY; age 12-8-20; son of Jim Stone (born Ohio County, KY) & Jenet ?, died of typhoid fever; buried December 14 Bryant Chapel. [no obituary found]



Valentine, Mattie (Green)

7 May 1889

21 October 1932

Kentucky death certificate 1932 - #23077: Mattie Valentine died 21 October 1932 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 7 May 1889 Daviess County, KY; age 43-5-14; married; wife of Henry Valentine; daughter of Ike Green & Mollie Davis; died of chronic nephritis; informant Henry Valentine; buried October 23 Hamilton Cemetery.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 25 October 1932, p.3:

Respected Colored Woman Dies At Whitesville Home – Mattie Valentine, 43, wife of Henry Valentine, respected colored resident of Whitesville, died at her home Friday night. She is survived by her husband and three children. Funeral services were conducted at Vine's Chapel Baptist church Sunday afternoon with interment in the Hamilton cemetery.

Note – Mattie Green married Henry Valentine 4 November 1909 Daviess County, KY. Henry Valentine (1886-1966) is buried Greenwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY.



Williams, Anna May

18 December 1929

19 January 1930

Kentucky death certificate 1930 - #612: Anna May Williams died 19 January 1930 Daviess County, KY; Black; born 18 December 1929 Whitesville, Daviess County, KY; age 1 month & 1 day; daughter of Nellie Williams & Roberta Bogan; found dead; informant Ellen Bogan; buried Bryant Chapel. [no obituary found]

