

Johnson, George W. Burial Ground

aka Hubbard, Bliss/Johnson

By Dave Hallemann



This mysterious cemetery with its magnificent crypts is located in T39 R3 S13 NW¼ of the NW¼.

38° 6' 45" N / 90° 39' 31" W

Visited 24th May 2006 by Dave Hallemann and Carole Goggin. This cemetery was originally recorded by in 1994 by Lisa K. Thompson Gendron, Benjamin and Emily Thompson, and Robert Lewis.

This cemetery is on land first entered by William Edmonson of Jefferson County Missouri on December 19th, 1857, certificate number 30556, for the NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13 containing 40 acres.

28th May 1868, William Edmonson of St. Louis, sells the tract to Charles Bickford, for \$400.⁰⁰, "All the NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13, containing 40 acres." As Recorded in Book Z Page 216.

Recorded in Trust Deed Book 1 Page 587, on June 3rd, 1868, C. H. Bickford executes a deed of trust to John J. Fox, party of the second part, and Herman E. Schuster, party of the third part, in the amount of \$100.⁰⁰, using the "...NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13, containing 40 acres..." as collateral.

Recorded in Goodspeed's History of Jefferson County, page 407;

State vs. Charles H. Bickford.--In 1868 Alexander Walker lived alone in a cabin near Vineland, in Jefferson County. He and Charles H. Bickford had a business difficulty which led to a lawsuit, decided in favor of Walker. Afterward, on the night of the 3d of November, of that year, Walker was called to his door, and then and there shot and killed. In the same month Charles H. Bickford was indicted for the murder of Walker, and was arrested and lodged in jail at Hillsboro. Subsequently he was taken out of the jail and hung...

Probate # 1095 reflects his heirs as, Lavinia Bickford his wife, Lucy, Stella, Vienna, and George W. Bickford. Security Bond was given by George W. Johnson and Allen Maness. There is a receipt from George W. Johnson for \$368.⁷⁵, for settlement of a lawsuit against Charles H. Bickford. As he is hung about April 1869 he obviously was unable to pay the note.

On 15th January 1870, John J. Fox, upon default of Charles H. Bickford, has the Sheriff sell the tract on the courthouse steps, and George W. Johnson, father of Lavinia Bickford, is the highest bidder on the 40 acres for \$100.⁰⁰. Transaction being recorded in Book 2 Page 164.

After paying the cost of probate and the \$368.⁷⁵ to George W. Johnson for the settlement of the lawsuit there was only \$5.55 left for Lavinia and the children.

Next Lavinia Bickford buys the interest of her brothers and sisters on the land she and Charles had owned before his death. The land was afterward owned by George W. Johnson, her father, who died November 7th, 1871 per monument. Thus each child of George W. inherited 1/7th interest.

1st March 1872 Charles Waldron and Mary his wife sell their 1/7th interest in the 40 acres to Lavinia Bickford for \$75.⁰⁰, "NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13, containing 40 acres, **reserving ½ acre which is to be used as a burying ground.**" As recorded in Book 11 Page 551.

29th December 1871 Joseph Butts and Nancy Ann his wife sell their 1/7th interest in the 40 acres to Lavinia Bickford for \$75.⁰⁰, "NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13, containing 40 acres." As recorded in Book 11 Page 552.

5th January 1872, William W. Johnson and Margaret Ellen his wife sell their 1/7th interest in the 40 acres to Lavinia Bickford for \$75.⁰⁰, "NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13, containing 40 acres." As recorded in Book 11 Page 553.

20th December 1871 Thomas J. Johnson and Mary Ellen his wife sell their 1/7th interest in the 40 acres to Lavinia Bickford for \$75.⁰⁰, "NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13, containing 40 acres." As recorded in Book 11 Page 554.

20th December 1871 Henry Vivrette and Susan his wife sell their 1/7th interest in the 40 acres to Lavinia Bickford for \$75.⁰⁰, "NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13, containing 40 acres." As recorded in Book 11 Page 555.

29th December 1871 William Sullivan and Lucy Ellen his wife sell their 1/7th interest in the 40 acres to Lavinia Bickford for \$75.⁰⁰, "NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13, containing 40 acres." As recorded in Book 11 Page 555.

With these earliest deeds reserving the cemetery, the fact that the land was inherited from George W. Johnson, and he is buried here. We can therefore "*Officially*" place a name of **George W. Johnson Cemetery** on this graveyard.

Continuing with our history;

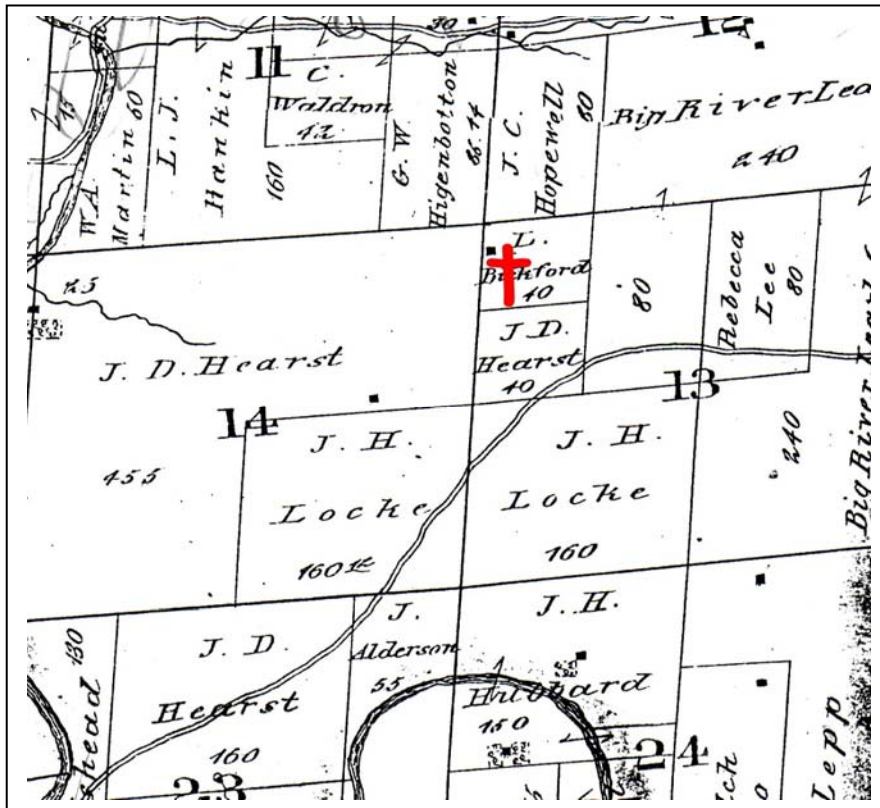
25th June 1877, Lavinia Maness (formerly Lavinia Bickford) and her husband Willis H. sell the "NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13, containing 40 acres." to Joseph A. Hubbard for \$500.⁰⁰. Transaction recorded in Book 11 Page 556.

During the period of ownership by Joe Hubbard, 1877-1908, Coxwell buries people in this cemetery mainly in the 1890s and calls it Hubbard Cemetery.

6th August 1908, J. A. Hubbard and Tempa his wife, deceased; M. M. Hubbard and his wife Mary; Arthur E. Hubbard and his wife Estella; Joseph O. Hubbard and his wife Bertha; John M. Hubbard and his wife Clare; George Byron and his wife Seneath; all heirs of Tempa Hubbard, deceased, transfer the land to Nezhiah Wright Bliss of St. Louis, for \$800.⁰⁰, "NW¼ of the NW¼ of T39 R3 S13, containing 40 acres...*with other tracts*" transaction being recorded in Book 63 Page 559.

Recorded in Book 104-143, on 8th January 1926, Nezhiah Wright Bliss and his wife Lucy Bell, sell the tract to Harold Hearst Kingsland, a single man. The Bliss' construct a concrete wall around an area about 50x70 feet for their cemetery.

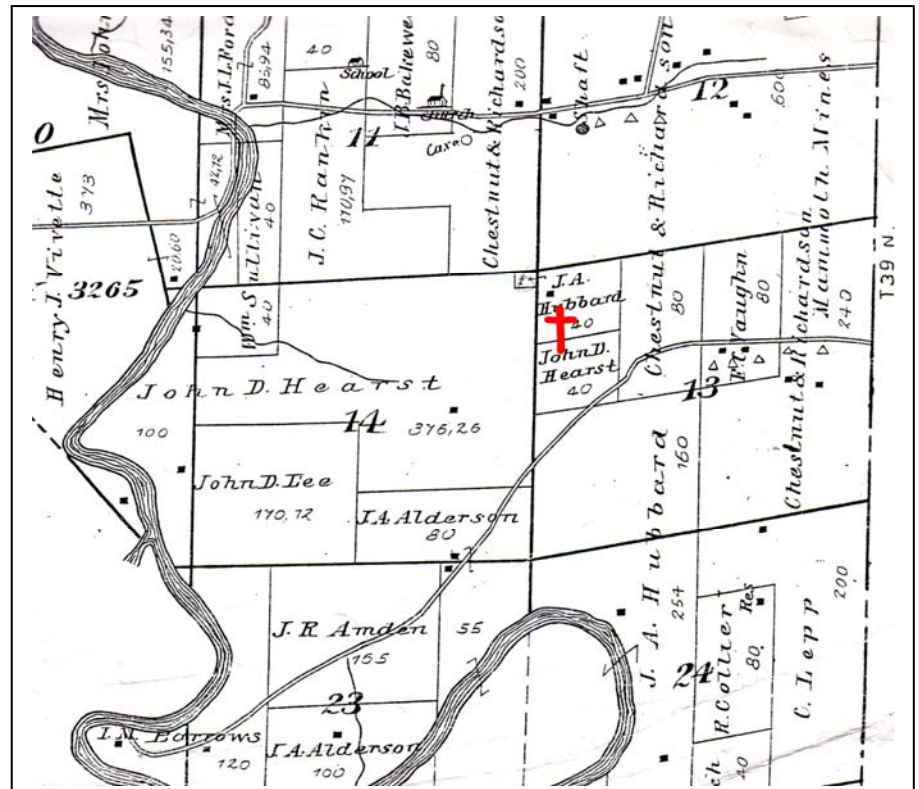
Although there are what appears to be three cemeteries adjoining each other, they are all still contained within the ½ acre area reserved by the Johnsons.



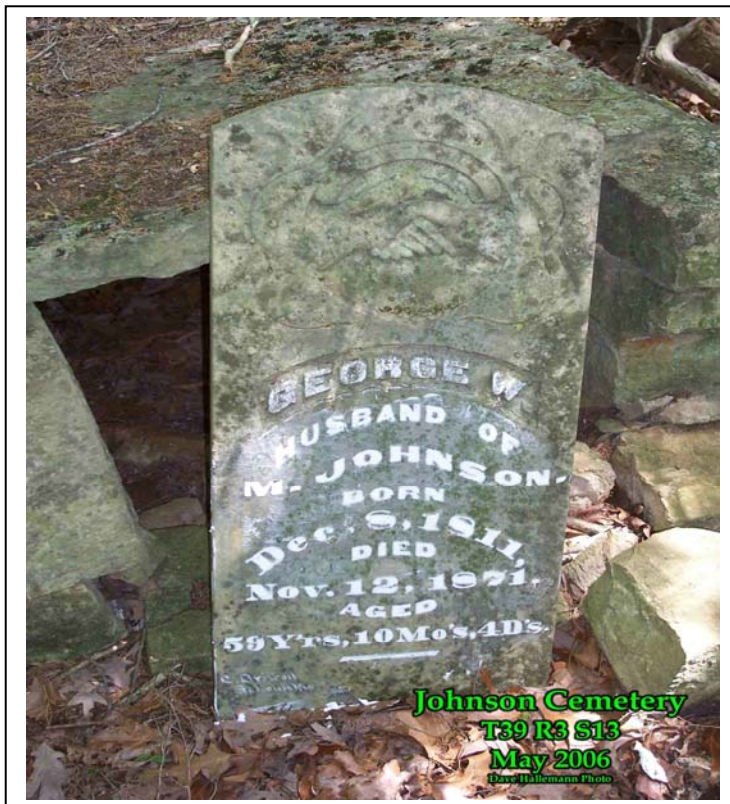
As can be seen in the picture at left, in 1876 L. (Lavinia) Bickford is in possession of the property. The cross I added to the photo to denote the approximate location of the cemetery.

In 1898 the tract has been sold to J. A. Hubbard. As before I added the cross to show location.

Coxwell Funeral Parlor of De Soto, buries people in a Joe Hubbard Cemetery. This was another name for the Johnson Cemetery while it was owned by Joe Hubbard.



The following persons are listed on the monuments in this cemetery. There are also many fieldstone markers;



George W. Johnson

Husband of
M. Johnson

Born
December 8, 1811

Died
November 12, 1871

Aged
59 Years 10 Months 4 Days

Melissa

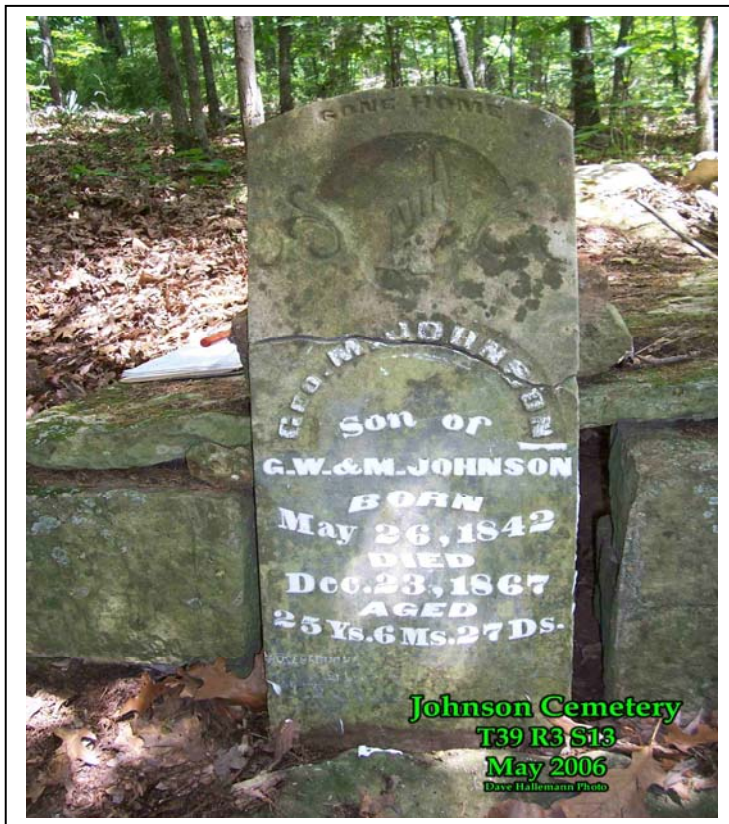
Wife of
George W. Johnson

Born
November 1807

Died
March 21, 1871

Aged
64 Years





**George M.
Johnson**

Son of
G. W. & M. Johnson

Born
May 26, 1842

Died
December 23, 1867

Aged
25 Years 6 Months 27 Days

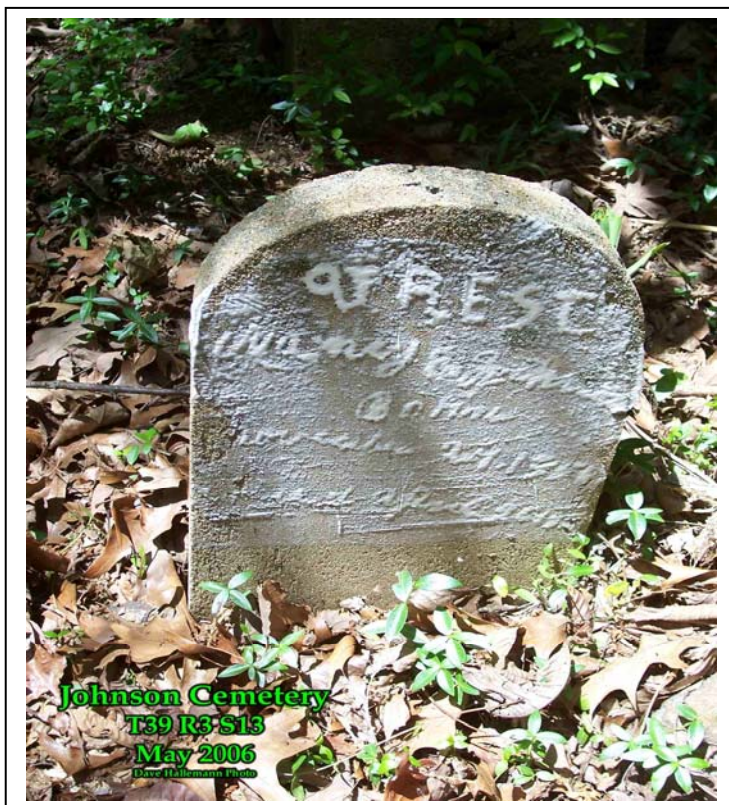
Stella

Wife of
L. M. Shaw

Died
November 30, 1887

Aged
23 Years 10 Months





At Rest

**Nancy E.
Johnson**

Born
November 29, 1858

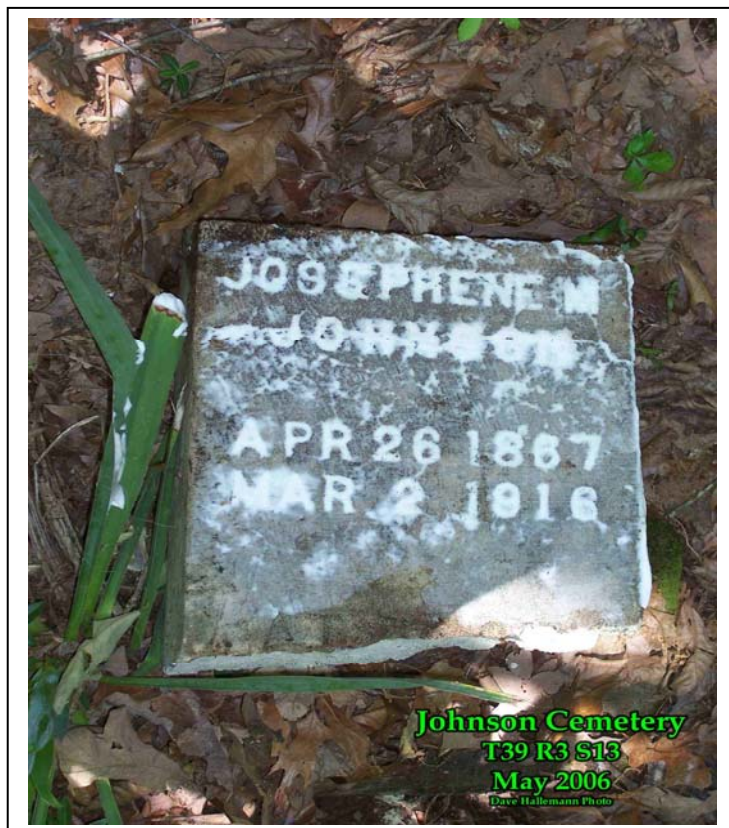
Died
April 26, 192?

At Rest
John ?. Johnson

Born
?, 1858

Died
January 23, 1925





Josephine M.
Johnson

April 26, 1867

March 2, 1916

Josephine Johnson's Death Certificate. As can clearly be seen she was buried in Hubbard Cemetery by De Soto Undertaking Co. of De Soto.

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			
1 PLACE OF DEATH County <u>Johnson</u> Township <u>Valle</u> or Village <u>Unincorporated</u> or City (NO. St. Ward)		Registration District No. <u>470</u> File No. <u>10839</u> Primary Registration District No. <u>5574</u> Registered No. <u>37</u>	
2 FULL NAME <u>Josephine Johnson</u>			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			
3 SEX <u>Female</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5 SINGLE <u>Married</u> MARRIED WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (Write the word)	10 DATE OF DEATH <u>Apr. 2, 1916</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)
6 DATE OF BIRTH <u>Apr. 26, 1867</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)	7 AGE <u>48</u> yrs. <u>10</u> mos. <u>6</u> da. If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.?	11 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from <u>Feb. 1916</u> to <u>Mar. 2, 1916</u> , that I last saw her alive on <u>Apr. 31, 1916</u> , and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>10:15</u> p.m.	
8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <u>Housework</u> (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) <u>same</u>		The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Myocarditis</u> <u>19</u>	
9 BIRTHPLACE (City or town, State or foreign country) <u>St. Bernice, Mo.</u>		CONTRIBUTOR (Duration) <u>1</u> yrs. <u>1</u> mos. <u>6</u> da. (Secondary) (Date) <u>Mar. 3, 1916</u> (Address) <u>De Soto, Mo.</u>	
10 NAME OF FATHER <u>Nicholas Lapla</u>		(Signed) <u>F. S. Turkey</u> M. D.	
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (City or town, State or foreign country) <u>St. Bernice, Mo.</u>		12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Josephine Beadle</u>	
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (City or town, State or foreign country) <u>St. Bernice, Mo.</u>		14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) <u>Geo. Johnson</u> (Address) <u>Unincorporated</u>	
15 Filed <u>Mar 3, 1916</u> <u>B. L. T. Papp</u> Registrar		16 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Hubbard Cemetery</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>3-4-1916</u> UNDERTAKER <u>De Soto Undertaking Co.</u> ADDRESS <u>De Soto, Mo.</u>	

Bliss

Neziah Wright Bliss

1860 - 1931

Lucy Belle Bliss

1862 - 1930

Read Isaiah 57-1 and know the truth



Jefferson County Republican, De Soto, MO Thursday April 30, 1931

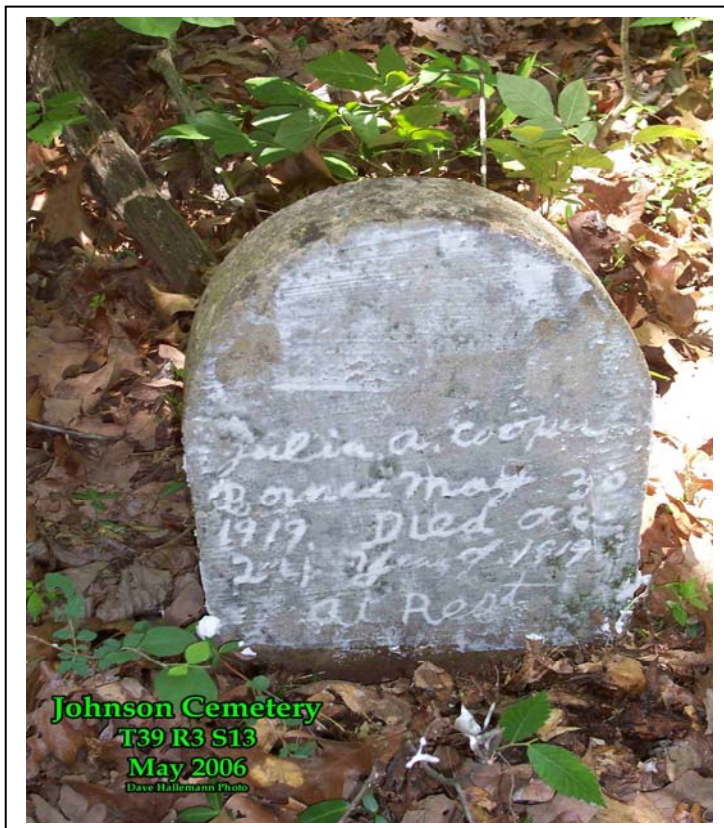
Neziah W. Bliss, one of Jefferson County's most highly respected citizens and a well to do farmer, is presumed to have drowned in Big River at the Mammoth Ford last Sunday morning, and searching parties numbering hundreds of men and boys have failed in their efforts to locate his body. According to witnesses, Mr. Bliss tried to cross the river at Mammoth Ford Sunday morning, but the horse he was riding balked when about half way across and reared, throwing the rider into the swollen waters. Mrs. Burke Alderson, who saw Mr. Bliss fall from the horse called to her husband, who started to the rescue. Both Mr. and Mrs. Alderson saw Mr. Bliss evidently wading in water chest deep, but when they got to the ford, no trace of him could be found. The horse scrambled to the east bank of the river unharmed.

It is said that Mr. Bliss was wearing a pair of hip rubber boots and a heavy overcoat and had planned to try to salvage some cedar posts which had been lost last week, when his wagon overturned in the ford. At the time the posts were lost, the wagon bed floated off the frame, the wheels became uncoupled, and the rear wheels were washed down stream for some distance before lodging against some trees. Several hundred men and boys have formed rescue parties and have dragged the river for almost a mile below the ford, and have probed the deeper holes far below, but no trace can be found of the body. Mammoth Ford is the deepest, fastest, and most treacherous ford on Big River, according to canoeists who have floated the length of the stream, and was more so last weekend due to the rains which brought the river up about two feet.

Mr. Bliss was probably one of the largest land owners along the river, having almost 2 1/2 miles of river front and numbered the acres in the thousands. He was twice married, his second wife having died about 13 months ago. a brother, Dr. (Malcolm) Bliss of St. Louis, is assisting in the search of his brother, and another brother, Dr. E. W. Bliss, formerly of this city, passed away in Hollywood, Calif. a few months ago.

The Jefferson County Republican, De Soto, MO, Thursday, May 7, 1931

The body of Neziah Bliss, who lost his life in the swollen waters of Big River at Mammoth Ford on Sunday, April 26th, was located by a search party last Saturday morning, about one half mile north of the Mammoth Ford. An inquest conducted by Dr. W. E. Gibson Jr. resulted in the verdict of accidental drowning. The remains were brought to De Soto, where short funeral services were held Sunday afternoon from the Richardson and Mothershead Funeral Home, after which they were interred in the family cemetery on the Bliss farm. The death of Mr. Bliss came as a shock to his many friends, for he was perhaps one of the best known and most highly respected citizens in this county. He had lived on the river practically all of his life and knew every whim and quirk of that stream, but met his death when he misjudged the most treacherous riffle on the entire length of the river. He leaves one brother, Dr. Malcolm Bliss (Hospital) of St. Louis, and a few others who are more distantly related to him.



Julia A. Cooper

Borned

May 30, 1919

Died

October 24, year of 1919

At rest

At rest

Albert W. Cooper

Borned

March the 7th, year of 1924

Died

February the 14th, year of 1925

Aged

11 Months 7 Days



The Cooper children's graves. Notice the distance from the head to the foot stone, about 3 feet, denoting a child. If it was an adult burial it would be about 6 feet between markers.

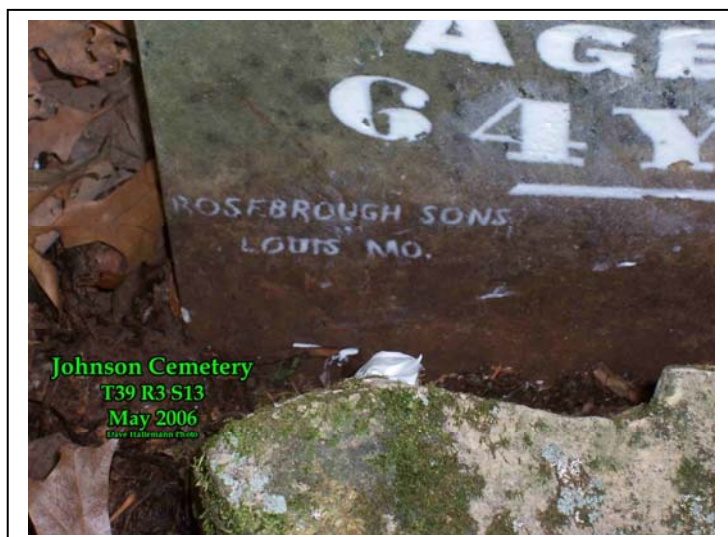


1 PLACE OF DEATH			MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
County	Jefferson		Registration District No.	420
Township	Waller		File No.	30592
Village			Primary Registration District No.	5374
City			Registered No.	76
2 FULL NAME			30592	
Julia A. Cooper			76	
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3 SEX	4 COLOR OR RACE	5 SINGLE MARRIED WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (If wife the word)	10 DATE OF DEATH	
French	White	Single	Oct 18 1919	
6 DATE OF BIRTH	7 AGE		17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from	
May 30 1919	0 yrs 4 mos 24 ds		Oct 18 1919, to Oct 24 1919	
8 OCCUPATION	9 BIRTHPLACE		that I last saw her alive on	
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work	Near Vinland Mo		Oct 18 1919	
(b) General nature of industry business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)			and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at	
10 NAME OF FATHER	11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER		The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:	
Arthur H. Cooper	Missouri		Dysentery + enteritis	
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER	13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER		104	
Carrie La Plante	Missouri		(Duration) yrs. mos. ds.	
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE	15		CONTRIBUTORY	
(Informant) Arthur H. Cooper	Oct 25 1919		(Signed) J. A. Keaney M. D.	
(Address) Dr. Soto Mo	Dr. Soto Mo		(Address) Dr. Soto Mo	
19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL			DATE OF BURIAL	
Hubbard Cemetery			Oct 25 1919	
20 UNDERTAKER			ADDRESS	
J. A. Keaney			Dr. Soto Mo	

As can be seen of Julia A. Coopers Death Certificate at left, Coxwell states he buried her in Hubbard Cemetery. We now have two death certificates stating this is Hubbard Cemetery.

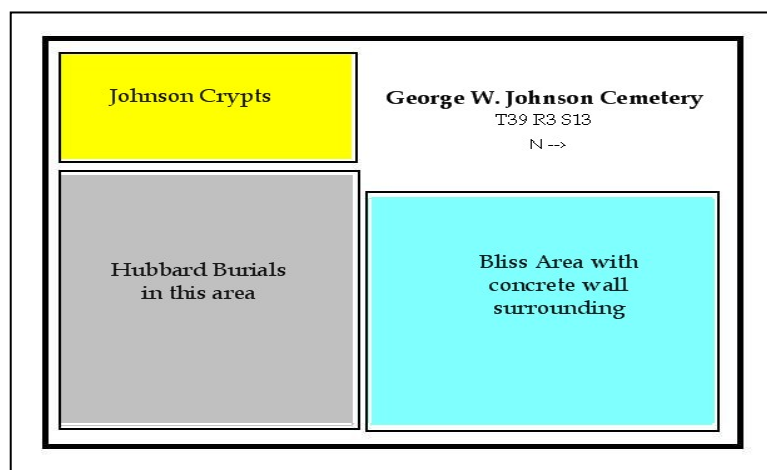
I had looked for more than 5 years for Hubbard Cemetery before finally locating it.

The Johnson Crypts. George W. Johnson on left, Melissa Johnson in middle, George W. Johnson on right. These are the best preserved crypts I have seen.



Rosebrough Sons, St. Louis Mo., monument makers mark on Melissa's stone.

This is a general layout of the three areas. They all appear to be within the original ½ acre tract.



It almost appears as though there are 3 adjoining sections of this cemetery. In one section with a concrete wall around it are the Bliss burials. About 30 feet from the southwest corner of this area are the Johnson Crypts, and an area along side of the two is what I believe is the Hubbard area. In this area there are what appear to be 40-50 burials in rows of 7-8 graves. Most graves with simple fieldstone markers for head and foot. The monuments in this area are hand made out of concrete (*see Coopers above*).

The following list was taken from the records of Coxwell Funeral Parlor of De Soto. I feel all of these people are buried here although I can not say with certainty. All were buried in Hubbard Cemetery which we proved this cemetery was called at one time during a time period when Joe Hubbard owned the property.

AGERS, Mrs. Sarah, 10-17-1895, 25 yrs., Hubbard; Cem, Dropsy
BYRON, Infant of Sena & George, 1-26-1895, 1 mo., Hubbard; Family Cem., M,
Typhoid pneumonia
CASEY, Menerva, 5-24-1895, 64 yrs., Hubbard; Farm Cem, Consumption
CLEMENS, Mrs. Cora Belle, 6-22-1899, 23 yrs., Hubbard; Cem, Consumption
DODSON, Mettie, 2-23-1891, 2 yrs., Hubbard; Cem, Croup
GILL, Edward, 12-29-1895, 47 yrs., Joe Hubbard; Cem, Typhoid pneumonia
GILL, Mrs. Luch, 5-3-1897, 36 yrs., Hubbard; Cem, Consumption
GOWAN, Infant of Harry & Hattie, 4-22-1894, Hubbards; Cem, M
JOHNSON, Effalina, 7-21-1892, 5 months, Hubbard; Summer complaint
JOHNSON, Infant of Jno A., 2-1-1894, 15 days, Hubbard; Cem, Premature Birth
JOHNSON, Noel Fannie, 6-20-1897, 4 mo., Hubbard; Cem
LaPLANT, Infant of Chas & Annie, 4-26-1896, Hubbard; Cem
TOTTEN, Mrs. Lena, 4-26-1896, Hubbard; Cem, Measles

I would like to thank Jeremy Reando for leading us to this cemetery on his families property, Lisa Gendron for supplying information, and Carole Goggin for her many hours helping research both deeds and genealogy background.

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