

# Dugan Cemetery

By Dave Hallemann



This family graveyard is located near one of Jefferson County's most scenic sites, Tower Bluffs.

This cemetery was located by Dave Hallemann in October 2003. But due to the tornado having just went through nothing was visible at that time. It was revisited in January 2008 by Dave Hallemann and Carole Goggin.

38° 9' 27" N / 90° 42' 27" E

This family cemetery, located in T40 R3 S32 Survey 3166, is named for Joh

n Dugan, who owned the land and is buried there.

This original land grant was entered by Elijah Benton, and confirmed by the commission in Decision 187 included below;

*February 23, 1808*

*Board met on application of claimant Isaac Benton claiming 640 acres situated on the west side of Big River, District of St. Genevieve, produces to the board a Plat of survey dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 1806, and certified by Antonie Soulard 27<sup>th</sup> November 1806. John Jones duly sworn, says the claimant built a cabin on said tract of land in 1804, Raised a crop in 1805, and has inhabited and cultivated the same to this day, further states that claimant had wife and 11 children in fall of 1804. Claimant acknowledges he never had permission to settle...*

*November 25, 1808*

*Board met...Elijah Benton claiming 640 acres situated on Negro Fork of Maramec River. Francis Wideman sworn says that in 1799, Francois Valle, commandant of St. Genevieve gave permission to settle provided they would settle on the frontier, fifteen miles in front of the settlements, that he then wrote to his connections to come to the country; that claimant came to the country in consequence to this letter, and that he is a brother in law of witness. Laid over for decision...*

*June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1810*

*Board met...Elijah Benton claiming 748 arpents and 68 perches of land...it is the opinion of the board that this claim NOT be granted...*

*November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1833*

*Board met pursuant to adjournment...Elijah Benton by his legal representatives, claiming 640 acres of land on Big River, about 6 or seven miles from Michael Horine.*

*John Stewart of Jefferson County, being duly sworn says, that he is well acquainted with the said Elijah Benton, and knows the tract claimed; that in August or September of the year 1803, he was on the tract claimed, that then there was a field of corn some three or four acres, a garden, a comfortable cabin, and out-house, and to his knowledge, said tract has been inhabited and cultivated ever since, by whom he cannot say.*

*Mason Frisell, the present claimant, observes to the board that the above witness, John Stewart is a different man than, John Stewart of Washington County, who gave testimony in the case before...*

*November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1833*

*F. R. Conway appeared pursuant to adjournment.*

*In the case of Elijah Benton, claiming 640 acres of land...claimant produces to the board, a paper purported to be the original survey of land claimed, said survey made by John Stewart and dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 1806, received for record by Soulard, February 27, 1806.*

*The following testimony was taken before L. F. Linn, commissioner;*

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John Stewart being of lawful age, and duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and says that on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 1806, he surveyed for Elijah Benton a head or settlement right of 640 acres, including his improvements on Big River; that at the time this despondent was on the said tract of land to survey the same (at the time above mentioned); there had been at the appearance of the field, at least two crops made on the place, and from the appearance of the houses, there was reason to believe that they had been used for two or three years. The despondent further states he feels, great confidence in the belief that at least two crops had been raised on this tract of land at the time he surveyed the same. JOHN STEWART

Benjamin Horine being duly sworn upon his oath deposes and says that he was in this country before it passed under the government of the United States, that he was well acquainted with the place on Big River settled by Elijah Benton; that, before the change of government took place Elijah Benton had been at work on the place making improvements; that the year after the exchange of government took place, there was corn raised on said place by Elijah Benton; that, at the time of surveying of said tract by John Stewart, he assisted in carrying the chain, and that at this time he is fifty-six years of age.

BENJAMIN HORINE

Sworn and subscribed May 9, 1833

L. F. LINN, Commissioner

October 16, 1834

The board met pursuant to adjournment...

Elijah Benton claiming 640 acres of land...

The board are unanimously of the opinion that 640 acres of land ought to be granted to the said Elijah Benton or his legal representatives...recorded in American Papers Book 7 Page 828.

[The reason to include the lengthy decision is to show a glimpse of the process and time period which had to be taken for all the land claims. Most were denied but the ones granted became the Surveys listed on today's maps.]

28<sup>th</sup> June 1825 we find deed from William Graham to Stephen Lamarque of Washington County, 640 acres, for \$426.<sup>26</sup>, being the settlement right of Elijah Benton and by him conveyed to Burnell J. Thompson who sold it to William Clinton who sold it to William Graham, as recorded in Book B Page 214.

Next on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1828, Etinne Lamarque of Washington County sells the 660 (*sic*) acre tract to Mason and Willard Frissell of Jefferson County for \$437.<sup>00</sup> recorded in Book C Page 87.

20 October 1836, Mason and Willard Frissell agree to a partition of the land they hold as tenants in common in equal shares...containing 640 acres, it being a settlement right settled by Elijah Benton and now confirmed by congress of the United States...Willard to have all that part on the east side of Big River where the family now resides...Mason to have all the rest...and \$650.<sup>00</sup> due to the inferior quality of the land...transaction recorded in Book D Page 423.

4<sup>th</sup> November 1852, Mason Frissell and his wife Latitia sells to Jeremiah and John Dugan through Stephen Dugan "...south part of a tract confirmed to Elijah Benton on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1836...and east side of Big River and below where Stephan Senter now resides..." for \$1500.<sup>00</sup> ... Transaction recorded in Book F Page 300.

24<sup>th</sup> November 1846 we find a court decree of Franklin County in favor of Stephen Senter vs. James M. Page, and Frederick M. Bomme, "...tract sold by Senter to Bomme confirmed to Elijah Benton, bounded on the south by a branch that empties into Big River just above a ford on road from Richwoods to Hillsboro, on the East and North by Big River and the West and South by the western boundary of the survey..." recorded in Book H Page 262.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 1854, John Dugan appoints Stephen Dugan of Washington County, his Attorney in fact. Transaction recorded in Book M Page 44.

21 March 1854, "John Dugan and William Senter owners and tenants in common, agree to a partition by Stephen Dugan, attorney in fact for John Dugan, purchases 140 acres from W<sup>m</sup>. Senter, for \$50.<sup>00</sup>. Transaction located in Book M Page 56.

The next deed of the same date, we find W<sup>m</sup>. Senter selling John Dugan for \$1.<sup>00</sup>, "160 acres, south part of Survey 3166 west of Big River..." as recorded in Book M Page 57.

20<sup>th</sup> October 1860, W<sup>m</sup>. Senter and his wife Minerva of Franklin County, sell to John Dugan for \$2800.<sup>00</sup>, 253.<sup>53</sup> acres except graveyard for W<sup>m</sup>. T. Senter and his three sisters, Susan, Nancy, and Jane

for family burying place. Deed recorded in Book Q Page 620. (Note this is the Senter Cemetery that will appear in another article, NOT the Dugan Cemetery of this article.)

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1877 John Dugan passes per monument.

Probate 1277 for John Dugan reflects at the time of his death he owned...Part of Survey 3166 containing 223.<sup>53</sup> acres, 17.<sup>99</sup> acres in NE part 40-3-32; 109.<sup>30</sup> acres SW¼ of the NW fractional ¼. Heirs are listed as Widow, John S., Peter B., Edward S., and Mary C. Dugan. Nancy Dugan was appointed administrator of the estate. A bill for \$20 for medical attendance from Dr. J. W. Barber, one from G. Stegman MD for 12.<sup>50</sup> and one from E. J. Rhymer MD for \$10.

In a deed dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 1883 where John S. Dugan and his wife Epsy convey their ¼ interest to his brothers Peter and E. (Edward) S. Dugan as recorded in Book 27 Page 269.

Next on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1886 Nancy E. Dugan conveys to Peter Dugan for \$70.<sup>00</sup> yearly and a life estate, her dower rights in the above mentioned lands, recorded in Book 28 Page 541.

3<sup>rd</sup> March 1888, Mary C. Dugan conveys her ¼ interest in 223.<sup>50</sup> acres to Peter Dugan for \$900.<sup>00</sup> recorded in Book 30 Page 156. After this deed Peter owns all the interest of the family.

In deed recorded in Book QC1 Page 28, dated July 5<sup>th</sup> 1888, Peter Dugan and his wife Mary, Quit Claim "All our interest...containing **223 acres**..." to James S. Williams for \$100.<sup>00</sup>.

As can be noted this cemetery was never "excepted out", however the size of the tract transferred is .50 or .53 acres less than all the previous deeds. Care to guess what ½ acre this probably is? This has the same effect as excepting out the cemetery.

In Book 31 Page 539, dated 21 July 1888, we find James S. Williams leasing the land back to Peter Dugan with option to purchase for \$1825.00, if paid by 1 March 1889. William made many references in this deed "...that time is of the essence..."

Apparently Peter Dugan could not raise the money and James S. Williams dies.

On 23 July 1890, per court order the administrator of the estate of James Williams sells the land at private sale to W. R. Maness, for \$103.<sup>60</sup>, and paying off a deed of trust, and paying Nancy Dugan \$70.<sup>00</sup> per year during her life time.

29<sup>th</sup> May 1922 W. R. Maness and his wife Catherine sell the land to George Maness for \$12,000.<sup>00</sup>, and a life estate, "...all their interest..." recorded in Book 93 Page 198.

Finally the last deed I looked at was from 8<sup>th</sup> March 1926, where Geo. Maness and Clara his wife transfer the land to Ed Brindley.

The last few deeds all reflect the land size as the same, **223** acres.

With the tracking of these deeds I believe we have shown an "Official" name of

## Dugan Cemetery

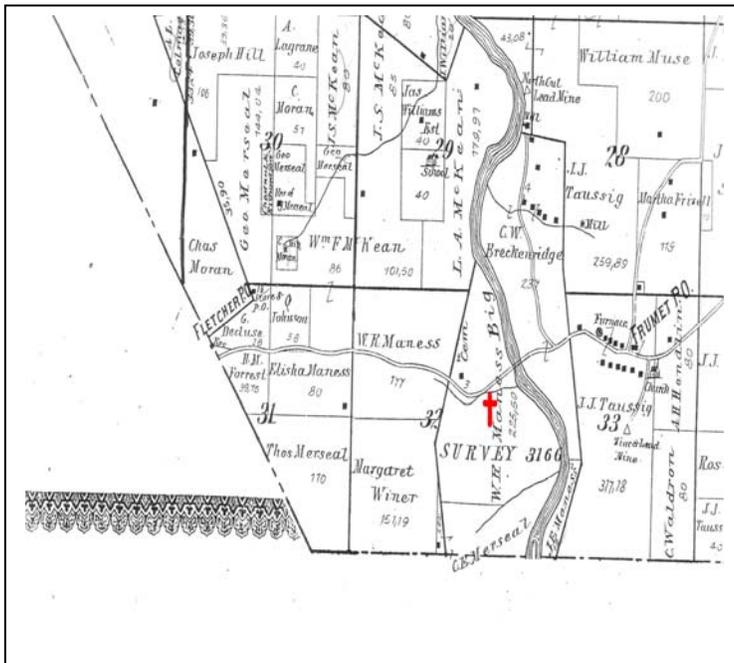
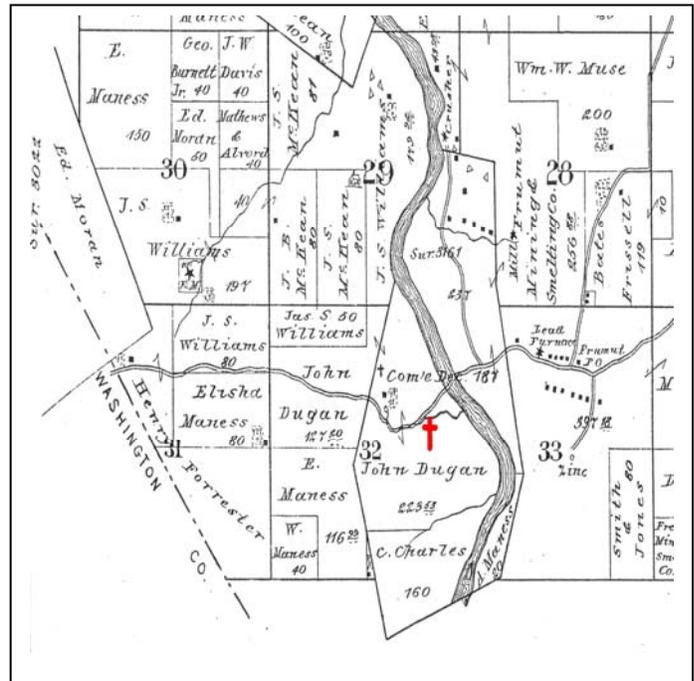
is in order for this graveyard.

Dugan Cemetery

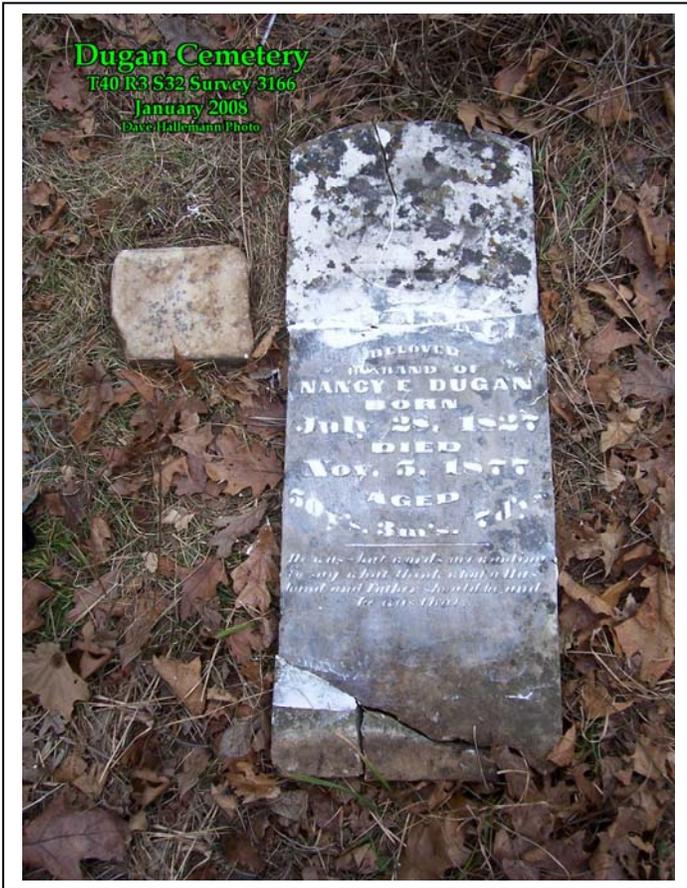
As can be seen on the 1876 Historic Atlas John Dugan owns the tract the cemetery is located on. To the east across the river is the famous Tower Bluffs.

Listed in the Patrons portion of the Atlas John Dugan of Frumet, T40 R3 S32 is listed as farmer and stock raiser who came to Jefferson County in 1844 from Washington County, Mo.

(I have added the red cross to denote the location of this cemetery. Also note the cross NW of this red cross near the letter C. This is the Senter Cemetery mentioned in the deed above.)



By 1898, John Dugan has passed and W. R. Maness owns the land. (Again, I have added the red cross to denote the location of this cemetery)



# JOHN

Beloved  
Husband Of

**Nancy E. Dugan**

Born

**July 28, 1827**

Died

**November 5, 1877**

Aged

**50y's 3m's 7d's**

*(He was-but words are wanting  
to say what, think what a Hus-  
band and Father should be, and  
he was that.)*

This is one of the best preserved false box crypts that I have seen in the county.

This is one of only about ten that are known within a few miles of this location. Also most are used by the Johnson families or those married into the line.



**The Jefferson Democrat**

October 5, 1887

Edward DUGAN and Jack MANESS; of Frumet, leave to-day for California, to see the country with a view of locating. We do not know whether they were induced to go there from a description of the sorrel-topped maidens or not. We hate to see these young men leave, but hope they may do well wherever they cast their lot.

**Jefferson Democrat**

WEDNESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 1886

Henry MANESS and Peter DUGAN are advertising a picnic and barbecue, at Frumet, on the 14th inst.

**Jefferson Democrat**

WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY 1886

Last Thursday night Peter DUGAN, of Big River township, had the misfortune of having his barn and contents destroyed by fire. The barn was a large one that had cost near a thousand dollars, and in it were 2 1/2 tons of hay, 100 bushels corn and a lot of farming machinery, including a self-binder, cultivators, etc., and a lot of harness, all of which is a total loss. The origin of the fire is not known. The building and contents were insured for eight hundred dollars.

**Jefferson Democrat**

WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 1885

Eleven new suits were filed with the Circuit clerk last Friday... Josephine DUCLOS asks damages from Peter DUGAN, alleging breach of promise and seduction.

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