

Seek and Ye Shall Find “Mystery on the Swashin”

By Dave Hallemann

One of the ongoing projects of the Jefferson County Historical Society is to relocate cemeteries and plot them on a map, record alternate names, and record the name of the deceased. I had read many times that persons were buried in Swashin Cemetery near Swashin or Swashen Baptist Church. I also knew that Swashin was located on and took its name from the Joachim Creek and was in the vicinity of De Soto. As is recorded in the Old Settlers Landmarks Committee Report, “the Indians named the creek Zhoashin (meaning pin oak) and the when Americans tried to pronounce it the name it became Swashin. The French named it Joachim.”

There is no Swashin Cemetery in our records at the De Soto Library. So I began a search to solve the “Mystery of Swashin Cemetery.”

Probably if you live around De Soto there could be no “mystery”, however Betty Olson our secretary and long time resident of De Soto did not know of its location.

After talking we thought it might be “Dripping Springs Cemetery” as this was in a likely location near Joachim Creek, but we were not sure. When Betty Meyer and Gerry Fleming recorded the “Dripping Springs Cemetery” on 7 December 1980 they noted how Mr. Maksin took them to the edge of his property to the old Dripping Spring and stated in was on top of the hill. As they climbed they observed what they thought was the foundation of the first “Dripping Springs School”, a one room log cabin.

I contacted the Jefferson County Baptist Association located in Mapaville, Mo. and learned that “Swashin Church” is listed in their minutes of association meetings for the years, beginning with its organization on 8 October 1853 thru 1921 the last entry of “Swashin”. Upon contacting Don Wideman at William and Jewell College where the Baptist Archives are kept, I learned that records show that James Williams and W. Stephens organized the church 17 July 1843. A frame building was built in 1868. It had 86 members in 1882. They have no record of when it disbanded.

I next consulted the book *History of the Jefferson County Baptist from the Days of John Clarke, 1798-1949* by Mrs. Etta Whipple. Starting on page 31 under Elder James P. Cape I learned that Rev. Cape received his education in a log schoolhouse and his playmates were Indians. On 20 August 1848 he married Miss Laura Elinda Brackenridge whose father John owned a farm where the business section of De Soto now is. The marriage took place at a Baptist revival held under a brush arbor at Campbell’s Crossing near De Soto. The Swashin Church, organized 17 July 1843, ordained Brother Cape a full gospel minister on 16 July 1861. About 1867 Brother Cape gave a plot of ground for a new church and cemetery. At one time it was one of the strongest Baptist Churches in Jefferson County but by 1945 it was not having services. It was torn down and removed to the Bates Creek Baptist Camp where it was again erected to be known as the Swashin Tabernacle. James P. Cape, born Monday, 21 November 1825, died Thursday, 7 March 1907 at the age of 81 years 3 months and 17 days, and *was buried in the Swashin Cemetery.*

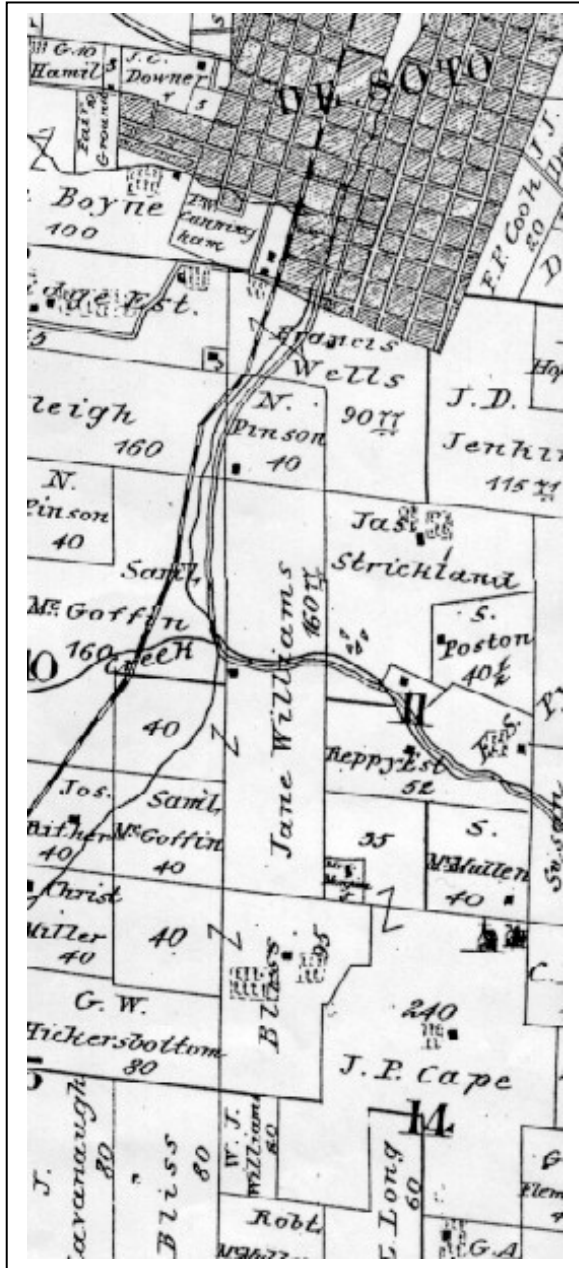
After doing a records search at the Jefferson County Courthouse the only document I could find mentioning the church and cemetery has James P. Cape deeding his property to John B. Cape of Colorado, George W. Cape of California, Nancy M^cMullin, W. H. Cape, James E. Cape & Fannie M^cMullin, *presumably* his children, on 15 November 1904 "...section 14 Township 39 Range 4 containing two hundred & seventy acres *less two acres deeded to the church* leaving...and further described as my home place where I now reside." As recorded in Book 62 Page 637. I searched twice but could not locate the original deed mentioned transferring ownership of the two acres to the church. I simply may have missed it or it may not have been recorded.

I next did a search for James P. Cape in our records and found him under "Dripping Springs Cemetery". In the book *Death records from Jefferson County Newspapers 1866-1920 Book II* by the Jefferson County Genealogical Society on page 9 is listed "Cape, Ida, died of pneumonia...burial was held at Swashin Church only moments before the burial of her grandmother. Date of paper listed as 12 May 1904" and Cape, Laura E. (nee Breckinridge) ...burial at Swashin Church..." and finally page 64 list "Williams, Aurelia (nee Wilkerson) "...buried at Swashen Church." Date of paper 6 February 1908.

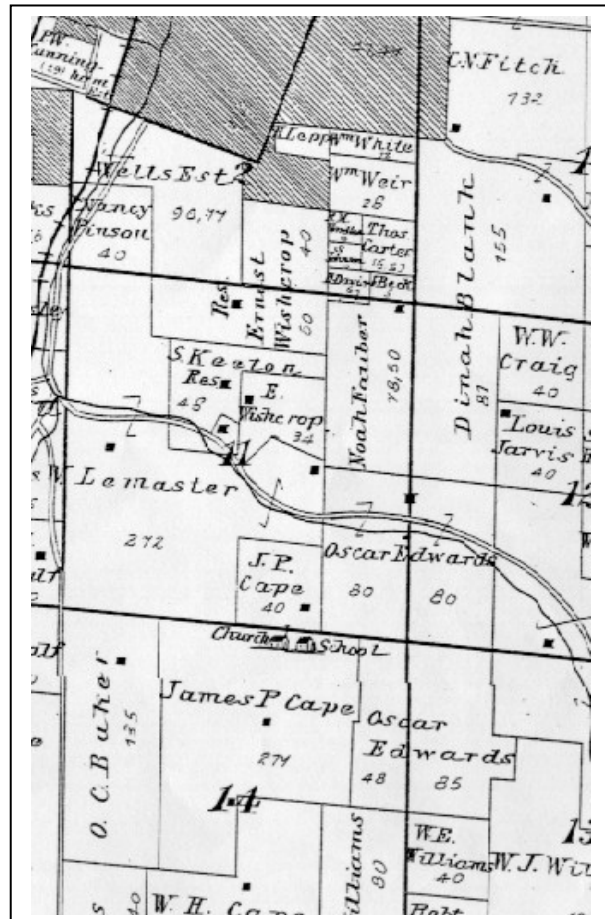
After searching these names in our records they are all listed in "Dripping Springs Cemetery". So now I feel confident that "Drippings Springs Cemetery" in our records is really "Swashin Cemetery".

Finally in Coxwell's Funeral Home Records I located the following; "McMULIN, Mrs. Kitty Ann, 9-10-1893, 75 yrs, 1 mo, 1 day, Dripping Springs; Swashing; Cem..."

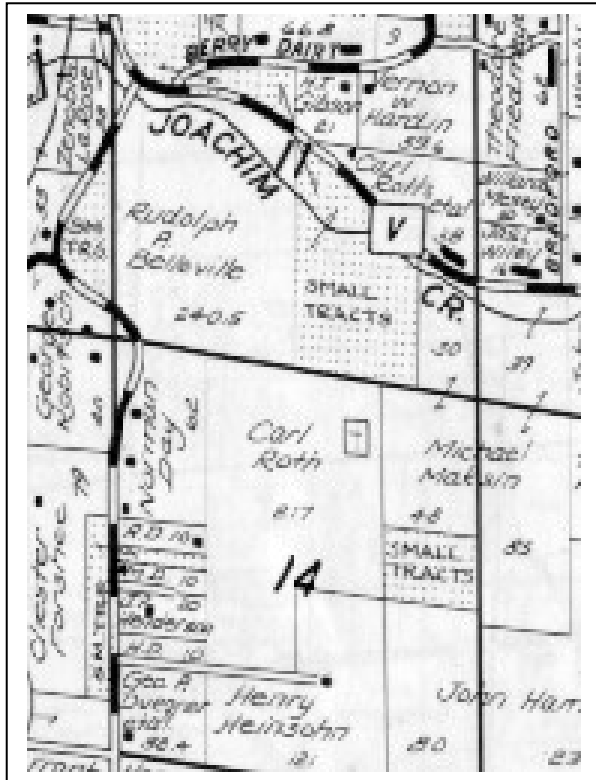
So we now have the names of "Dripping Springs", "Swashin", and "Joachim" for the same cemetery. One can see the need to update and cross-reference our records with alternate names.



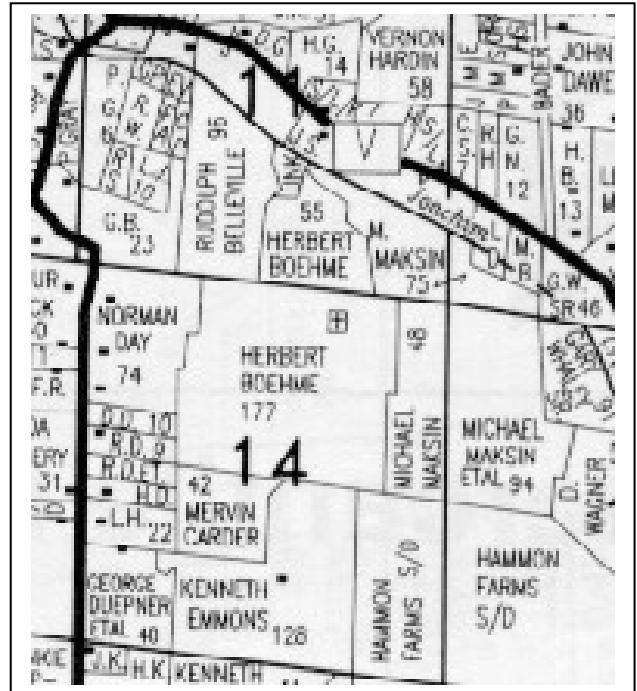
James Paul Cape, of Jefferson County, Missouri, was the original purchaser of the NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ T39 R4 Section 14 that the Church and Cemetery resided on, as recorded in the land office at St. Louis on 10 October 1853 certificate number 20942. Next I consulted the 1876 Index and Atlas. In 1876 James P. Cape owned 240 acres in T39 R4 Section 14 including the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ with a Church and School on it and an adjoining 35 acres in Section 11. As shown in the picture on the left of the 1876 Atlas, the Cape tract is located in the lower right hand corner. One can also see the symbol for a church and school as well as the Cape home and orchard, Joachim or Swashin Creek with Highway V running along side.



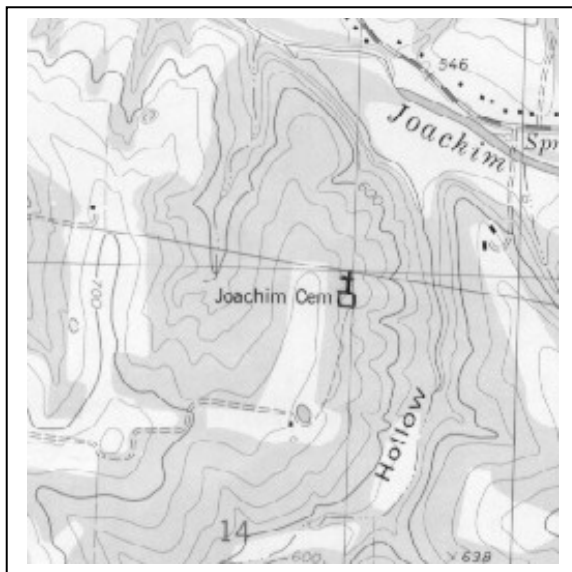
In the 1898 Index and Atlas at right, the church and school are also shown on the James P. Cape tract and listed as such.



Checking a 1975 plat book at left, in T39 R4 Section 14, we can see a square with a cross inside denoting a cemetery at this location, on the Carl Roth property.



Again in the 1995 plat book at right, the cemetery is located on the Herbert Boehme tract.



Finally, checking a modern topographical map there is a cemetery in T39 R4 Section 14 listed as "Joachim Cemetery".

As of this date I have not done an onsite survey of this cemetery. However this list was compiled by Gary Fleming and Betty Meyer on 7th December 1980 and recorded in our records as “Dripping Springs Cemetery”;

“This cemetery was once surrounded by a wrought iron fence, of which only a few sections and gate remain. It is completely overgrown with Vinca (Creeping Myrtle) which seems to cover almost all of the older cemeteries. Many of the graves have sunk two to three feet below the surface making walking rather perilous. It is a large area and we counted over 30 graves with only rough stones marking the foot of graves. There were probably many more but were so overgrown with vinca we could not find them. Two large stones were lying face down and several others were either broken or had sunk so far into the ground that we could not read the inscriptions. Unless cleaned up and repaired this cemetery will be impossible to find in another 10 years. Many of Jefferson County’s oldest settlers are buried there. The oldest grave we could find was for 1865, 115 years old. The latest we found was dated 1942.”

Cape, Mary Ann	daughter of James P. & Laura E. Cape
Born 16 th December 1850	Died 1 st May 1865 Aged 18 years 4 months 15 days
Cape, John C.	B. 15 th July 1824 D. 12 th October 1903
Cape, James M.	B. 20 th May 1851 D. 26 th June 1877
(This was the son of John C and Sarah M. (Williams) Cape. Sarah M. Williams was the daughter of James L. and Jane (Mitchell) Williams.)	
Williams, Diantha	B. 30 th December 1855 D. 20 th November 1900
Williams, Willis J.	B. 12 th February 1823 D. 20 th March 1902
Williams, Sinathy A.	(his wife) B. 19 th December 1826 D. 4 th April 1903
Williams, Thomas V.	Son of Maj. & S. A. Williams B. 10 th December 1853 D. 24 th April 1877
Williams, Willis L.	B. 21 st May 1868 D. 24 th July 1903

Williams, Robert J.	B. 20 August 1862	D. 27 th January 1913
Williams, _____	(Stone fallen on face. Believed to be the stone of J. M. Williams husband of Aurelia, since they were side by side.)	
Williams, Aurelia	Wife of J. M. Williams At Rest B. 19 th September 1880 D. 24 th January 1908	
Frank, Mary J.	B. 26 th March 1851	D. 6 th December 1903
Cole, Josie	1864-1931	Same Stone
Cole, Rachel	1894-1925	
Harris, Turner D.	B. 10 th June 1890	D. 19 th September 1912
Harris, Henry W.	B. 25 th January 1859	D. 9 th September 1913
Harris, Rebecca T.	B. 21 st August 1861	D. 13 th August 1930
Pugge, Aimee Flavie	B. 4 th July 1835	D. 6 th September 1897
Winer, D. W. F.	Daughter of Frank Winer B. 2 nd September 1914 D. 18 th December 1914	
Sanders, Louis	B. 16 th April 1820	D. 7 th March 1889
Travis, Frank	was borned May 16, 1880	died February 7, 1908
Travis, Clara	was borned 1885	died 1906
Travis, Arthur	Missouri Cook 20 th Infantry 10 th Division April 8 th , 1921 (Civil War Stone install by the Federal Army)	
Travis, ? Ed	Co. I 22 nd Ohio Infantry (rest illegible. Another Civil War Stone)	

(another civil War Stone was so badly weathered all that was readable were the words
"Corp Sidney Black")

(There were six headstones cast in concrete with the inscription chiseled into them. Two were for Frank and Clara Travis, above, the other four were with Frank and Clara's but too faint to read. Believe they were all for members of the Travis Family.)

Cape, William J.

B. 1st April 1821 D. 3rd November 1872
Aged 51 years 6 months 15 days
(Unknown. From birth date could be a brother of James P. or John C. Cape)

Cape, Ida

Daughter of Wm. H. and Emma M. Cape
B. 10th August 1881 D. 26th April 1904
(In the book *Death records from Jefferson County Newspapers 1866-1920 Book II* by the Jefferson County Genealogical Society on page 9 is listed "Cape, Ida, died of pneumonia ...burial was held at Swashin Church only moments before the burial of her grandmother. Date of paper listed as 12 May 1904" DH)

Cape, Cecily

Daughter of Wm. H. & Emma M. Cape (Wm. H. was the son of Rev. James P. Cape)
B. 3rd February 1892 D. 27th May 1897

Cape, Thomas L.

Son of James P. & Laura E. Cape
D. 6th July 1888 Aged 18 years 6 months 23 days
(This was fenced with wrought iron.)

Cape??, Little Myrtel

Died Aged 31 months 4 days
(This stone had fallen and was so eroded that we are not sure of the inscription. The grave with the section with all the Capes and we think she may have been the daughter of James P. and Laura Cape.)

**M^cMullin, Eli J.
Nancy A. his wife**

B. 18th September 1850 D. 16th August 1915 Father
B. 14th March 1855 D. 4th February 1922 Mother
(same stone. He was the son of Robert and Rebecca (M^cMullin) M^cMullin. She was the daughter of Rev. James P. Cape)

M^cMullin, C. R.

B. 22nd February 1862 D. 7th April 1902

Williams, Jane

wife of James L. Williams
B. 3rd September 1803 D. 15th January 1877
(Her maiden name was Jane Mitchell)

Williams, Thomas L. B. 8th March 1842 D. 9th April 1888 Father
Williams, Fannie B. 11th March 1846 D. 13th February 1885 Mother
(Same stone, he was son of James L. & Jane (Mitchell) Williams. Fannie was the daughter of Samuel Greer of Kentucky.)

Pence, John born in Pennsylvania 8th October 1800 D. 24th December 1871

Cape, Henry 1862-1942
Cape, Kate 1865-1896 (all on one stone)
Cape, Mary 1892-1892

Cape, James P. B. 21ST November 1825 D. 7th March 1907

Cape Laura E. wife of James Cape
B. 7th July 1830 D. 26th April 1904
(She was Laura E. Breckenridge daughter of John Breckenridge)

Cape, Laura E. daughter of James P. & Laura E.
D. 13th March 1885 Aged 14 years 2 months ? days
(This stone had fallen into grave which had sunk about 3 feet.)

Harrison, Lavernia 1845-1917 his wife Mother
Harrison, Josiah 1835-1920 Father
(Same Stone. Josiah R. Harrison, son of George W. and Jemina (Null) Harrison. George W. Harrison was born in Georgia in 1807 and was one of the early pioneers of Jefferson County. Lavernia Harrison was the daughter of Leander and Nancy Pinson, also early settlers.)

Pinson, Nancy B. 25th March 1825 D. 11th February 1901
(Mother of Lavernia (Pinson) Harrison.)

Pinson, Aaron D. 10th March 1881 Aged 29 years 5 months 21 days
(Son of Leander and Nancy Pinson)

Pinson, John A. Son of L. R. and Lavernia Harrison
D. 4th March 1884 Aged 18 years 2 months 10days

- Alderson, Mary Bessy** Daughter of W. (?) & S. L. Alderson
B. 20th May 1877 D. 1st August 1889
- Stevens, Wm.** Born in Virginia 15th October 1810 D. 18th March 1891
“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith.”
- Stevens, Bethena** Born in Virginia 31st March 1817 D. 26th June 1904
Wife of William “Call not back the Dear Departed”
(These are parents of Lucy Stevens who was the second wife of John A. Alderson. She was born in Powhatten County, Virginia. The Mary Bessy above may be the grandchild of John A. Alderson. He had 6 children by his 1st wife, Mary Craig, and 8 by his 2nd wife Lucy Stevens. A son by the 1st wife was named William and a son by the 2nd wife was named Walter.
- Wood, Henry L.** B. 3rd April 1844 D. 22nd February 1898
- Wood, Frances** B. 13th January 1850 D. 20th October 1930
- Wood, James E.** Infant Son of Henry L. and Frances Wood
B. 23rd December 1871 D. 5th December 1878
- Wood, Fleda** B. 11th October 1889 D. 1st July 1912
- Pyle, Harry M.** 1894-1922
Pyle, Della May 1885-1888
- Laramore, J. D.** Company E. 13th Ohio Cavalry (rest illegible)
- Waggoner, Beatrice B.** Daughter of C. V. & Ella Waggoner
B. 21st December 1896 D. 11th July 1898
- Jordon, Mary** Daughter of Atwood & Cecille Jordon
B. 3rd January 1881 D. 10th July 1881

Swashin/Dripping Springs Cemetery

The following list was compiled from Coxwell Funeral Parlor Records. Coxwell's records cover the period 1884-1929. Located in De Soto, Coxwell was the major Funeral Parlor for southwestern Jefferson County, as well as northern Washington, St. Francois counties.

AMES, Edward, 10-22-1886, 52 yrs., Dripping Springs;, M, Typhoid
ALDERSON, George son of Sol & Susan, 7-11-1891, 16 years, Dripping Springs;, M,
Typhoid

BECK, Albert Victor, 10-17-1891, 5 years, Swashing; Church Cem, F, Membraneous
croupe
BECK, Effie Adaline, 11-3-1895, 2 yrs. 2 mo. ,Dripping Spring; Cem ,Diphtheria
BECK, Infant of John, 1-10-1890, 7 days, Swashing Cem, M
BEQUETTE, Isabella, 1-31-1906, 75 yrs., Dripping Spring; Cem, Pneumonia
BLACK, Mrs. Susan, 3-30-1899, 82 yrs., Dripping Springs; Cem, Heart failure
BROOKER, E., 12-29-1907, 97 yrs., Swashing; Cem
BULLOCK, George B., 4-3-1889, 16 yrs. 7 mo. 11 days, Swashing; Ch. Cem., Dropsy

CAPE, Cecil, 5-29-1897, 5 yrs, 4 mo., Swashing; Cem, Tonsilitis diptheria
CAPE, E. L., 3-1885, Swashing; GY, F, Measles
CAPE, Hugh B., 7-29-1886, 2 yrs., Swashin; GY, Spasms
CAPE, Ida, 4-26-1904, 23 yrs., Swashing; cem, Pneumonia
CAPE, James P., 3-7-1907, 82 yrs., Swashing Cem
CAPE, Jno C. Judge, 10-12-1903, 79 yrs., Swashing Cem, Cancer of stomache
CAPE, Laura E., 4-26-1904, Swashing Cem
CAPE, Thomas L., 7-6-1886, 18 yrs., Dripping Spring; Cemetery, M, Abscess of lungs
CARVER, James, 5-12-1903, 52 yrs., Swashing; Cem, Consumption
CARVER, Talbert, 2-3-1890, 68 yrs. 6 mo., Swashing; Cem, Abcess of lungs
CASTILE, May Lily, 6-14-1898, 8 mo., Swashing; Ch Cem, Teething
CRANE, Rebecca, 7-31-1901, 49 yrs, 7 mo, 5 days, Dripping Springs; Cem, Consumption

DAVENPORT, Mrs. Mary, 7-26-1895, 22 yrs. ,Dripping Spring; Cem, Consumption
DENNY, Ann, 3-28-1917, 83 yrs, 10 mo, 19 days, Swashing; Cem, Bronc Pneumonia
DOOLIN, Polly, 1-20-1929, 86 yrs., Dripping Springs;
DRENEN, Infant of America & Geo., 12-2-1908, Dripping Springs; Cem, F

FRANK, Mary J. Mrs., 12-6-1903, 51 yrs., Swashing; Cem, Pneumonia

HALL, Henry L., 3-30-1898, 76 yrs., Dripping Springs; Cem, Dropsy
HALL, Mrs. Sarah L., 7-13-1893, 69 years, Dripping Springs; Cem, F, Rheumatis
HAMAM, Rosie, 9-26-1903, 9 yrs., Swashing; Cem, Brain fever

HARRIS, Henry W., 9-9-1913, 54 yrs, 7 mo, 15 days, Swashing; Cem, Apoplexy
HARRIS, Turner Denning, 9-19-1912, 22 yrs, 3 mo, 9 days, Swashing; Cem, Tuberculosis
of lungs
HARRISON, Josiah R., 1-22-1920, 84 yrs, 24 days, Swashing; Cem, Senility
HARRISON, Laura Ann, 5-10-1917, 72 yrs, 3 mo, 7 days, Swashing Cem, Mortally
injured in a runaway

KIRKWOOD, Robert Howard, 3-2-1916, 1 yr, 6 mo., Dripping Springs; Cem,
Bronco pneumonia

MALLICOAT, Della, 9-9-1895, 15 mo, 27 days, Swashing; Cem, Membranous croup
MALLICOAT, infant of J.E., 8-13-1891, Dripping Springs;
MALLICOAT, Mart, 9-15-1893, Dripping Spring; Cem, Thrash
McFRY, Wm. Burton, 4-20-1892, 20 days, Dripping Spring;, M, Inflammation of stomach
McMULLIN, Arther, 3-8-1899, 2 yrs., Swashing; Cem, Pneumonia
McMULLIN, Charles R., 4-7-1902, 40 yrs, 1 mo, 13 days, Dripping Springs; Cem,
Brain trouble
McMULIN, Eli J., 8-16-1915, 64 yrs., Swashing; Cem, Appoplexy
McMULLIN, Loulu, 7-22-1899, 3 yrs, 6 mo., Dripping Springs; Cem, Flux
McMULIN, Mrs. Kitty Ann, 9-10-1893, 75 yrs, 1 mo, 1 day, Dripping Springs; Swashing; Cem

OGLE, Mary, 2-6-1893, 72 yrs., Swashin; Cem, Old age
OGLE, Thos. , 4-22-1899, 83 yrs, 18 days, Swashing; Cem

PUGGE, Frederick, 6-8-1908, 87 yrs, 11 mo, 4 days, Swashing; Cem, Paralysis
PUGGE, Mrs. Annie, 9-8-1897, 62 yrs., Swashing; Cem Baptist; Cancer of limb
PYLE, Morette, 4-2-1892, 2 months, Dripping Spring;, Cholera Infantam
PYLE, Myrtle A., 1-11-1886, 3 yrs, 4 days, Swashing; GY, F, Scarlet fever
PYB, Della, 1-3-1888, 3 yrs., Swashing; Babtist Cem, Pneumonia

RALSTON, Nehemiah, 10-5-1898, 70 yrs.,Swashing; Ch Cem, Astham & heart disease
ROGERS, Edward, 3-15-1908, 1 mo, 16 days, Swashing; Cem, Pneumonia
ROGERS, Jno F., 2-16-1914, 24 days, Swashing; Cem
ROWDEN, Alsie, 7-6-1896, 1 yr, 8 mo., Dripping Springs; Cem, Summer complaint

SHRINGER, S.J., 8-20-1900, 60 yrs., Swashing; Cem
SKINNER, Francis E., 4-19-1918, 77 yrs., Swashing; Cem, Cyslitis & Uremie Poisoning
SKINNER, Martha, 3-8-1917, Swashing; Cem,
SMITH, Mrs. Matilda, 8-6-1895, 58 yrs., Dripping Spring; Cem , Dropsy
SOUFFLOT, Delphine, 2-12-1907, 86 ys, 10 mo., Swashing; Cem, General Debility
STAPLES, Infant of J.W., 9-6-1887, Swashing; Cemetery, M, Premature

TRAVIS, Aurther, 4-8-1921, 26 yrs, 11 mo, 19 days, Swashing; Cem, Shock result of
amputation of limb

TRAVIS, Aurther, 2-27-1911, 2 mo., Swashing; Cem, Erysipilis
TRAVIS, Aurther, 1-15-1911, Dripping Springs; Cem, Premature birth
TRAVIS, Frank, 2-7-1915, 35 yrs, 8 mo, 22 days, Swashing; Cem, Tuberculosis
TRAVIS, Fred, 5-3-1914, 23 yrs, 9 mo, 9 days, Swashing Cem, Phthisis pulmonalis
TRAVIS, Geo., 6-8-1910, 27 yrs, 4 mo, 19 days, Dripping Spring; Cem
TRAVIS, Sophia , 1-23-1915, 3 mo, 22 days, Swashing Cem

WAGNER, Beatrice, 7-11-1898, 1 mo, 6 days, Dripping Springs; Cem
WATKINS, Sophronia V., 3-15-1907, 61 yrs., Swashing; Cem, Pneumonia
WHITE, Nellie, 5-4-1899, 1 yr., Swashing; Cem, Whooping cough
WHITE, Walter Leslie, 9-16-1900, 9 mo, 5 days, Dripping Spring; Cem, Heart trouble
WILLIAMS, 1-24-1908, 24 yrs, Swashing; Cem, Tuberculosis
WILLIAMS, Diantha, 11-20-1900, 45 yrs., Dripping Springs; Cem., Inflammation of bowels
WILLIAMS, Infant of Jas. A., 2-27-1916, 3 days, 9 hours, Swashing; Cem
WILLIAMS, Richard B., 11-17-1914, 70 yrs, 8 mo, 6 days, Swashing; Cem, Dilation of
heart
WILLIAMS, Robert J., 1-27-1913, 50 yrs, 5 mo, 7 days, Swashing; Cem, Cancer
WILLIAMS, Synthia Ann, 4-24-1903, 76 yrs., Swashin; Bap. Ch Cem,
WILLIAMS, Willia J., 3-20-1902, 79 yrs, 1 mo, 8 days, Swashing; Ch Cem
WILLIAMS, Willis Erastus, 7-24-1903, 35 yrs, 1 mo, 25 days, Swashing; Cem
WOOD, Fleda, 7-1-1912, 22 yrs, 8 mo, 20 days, Swashing; Baptist; Cem, Pulmonary
tuberculosis
WOOD, Henry J., 2-22-1898, 54 yrs., Swashing; Cem, Plurisy