

# Board, Thomas Jefferson Family Cemetery

By Dave Hallemann



This previously unknown cemetery with its sunken monuments is located in T39 R5 S30 SW corner SW/NE.

38° 3' 53" N / 90° 30' 59" W

Visited 29<sup>th</sup> March 2006  
by Dave Hallemann and Carole Goggin.

This cemetery is on land first entered by Sarah J. Board of Jefferson County Missouri on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1854, certificate number 2327, for the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of T39 R5 S30 containing

80 acres. Sarah also entered the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1856 Certificate # 28618 containing 33.<sup>10</sup> acres. Her husband Thomas Jefferson Board first entered the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1832 Certificate # 3364 containing 72.<sup>30</sup> acres, also the E $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1837 containing 66.<sup>94</sup> acres.

Thomas Board was born in 1801 and from information obtained from 1840-60 Federal Census records we can estimate Sarah's birth date around 1810. They were married probably around 1826 as their oldest child in the 1840 census is 15-20.

According to the 1850 Census James Board is listed as a 21 year old grocer. Jefferson Board is a 49 year old farmer; Sarah is 40; daughter Mary Jane is 16; son John H. is 15; son Robert M. is 13; son William H. is 8; and son Virgil is 4.

On 9<sup>th</sup> November 1854 Mary Board marries *Joseph Jennings*.

By the 1860 census only Sarah J. 50; William H. 18 and Virgil 15 are listed. Per monuments Thomas Jefferson died in 1851 and Robert M. in 1856. James Board is now a farmer 31, married to Elvinia 28, with daughter Mary C. 8 years old.

In Probate Record #57 for Jefferson Board, Sarah J. Board was appointed administrator January 26, 1852. Jefferson's estate consisted of 73.<sup>02</sup> Acres in NW fractional quarter T39 R5 S30; 66.<sup>02</sup> Acres in the E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  T39 R5 S35; 40 acres SE/SW T39 R5 S35. Heirs listed as James A.; Mary J.; John H.; Robert M.; William H. Virgil H. all minors except James A. The Boards owned slaves.

Probate #600 James A. Board dies about 1867. Evaline Board appointed administrator. James' heirs listed are Mary C.; James; Sarah A. William. James interest in lands sold on courthouse steps and purchased by John Cole.

13<sup>th</sup> April 1868 we find the sheriff selling to satisfy a lawsuit against John C. Board 1/5 interest in the NW/SE & SE/NW T39 R5 S30, 73.<sup>02</sup> Acres; also 1/5 interest SW T39 R5 S30 containing 66.<sup>94</sup> acres; also 1/5 S<sup>2</sup>/NE T39 R5 S30; also SW/NE ; also SW/NW and W<sup>2</sup>/SW and SE/SW T39 R5 S29 240 acres; on the courthouse steps. John C. Cole being the highest bidder for \$ 440.<sup>00</sup>, being recorded in Book Z Page 203.

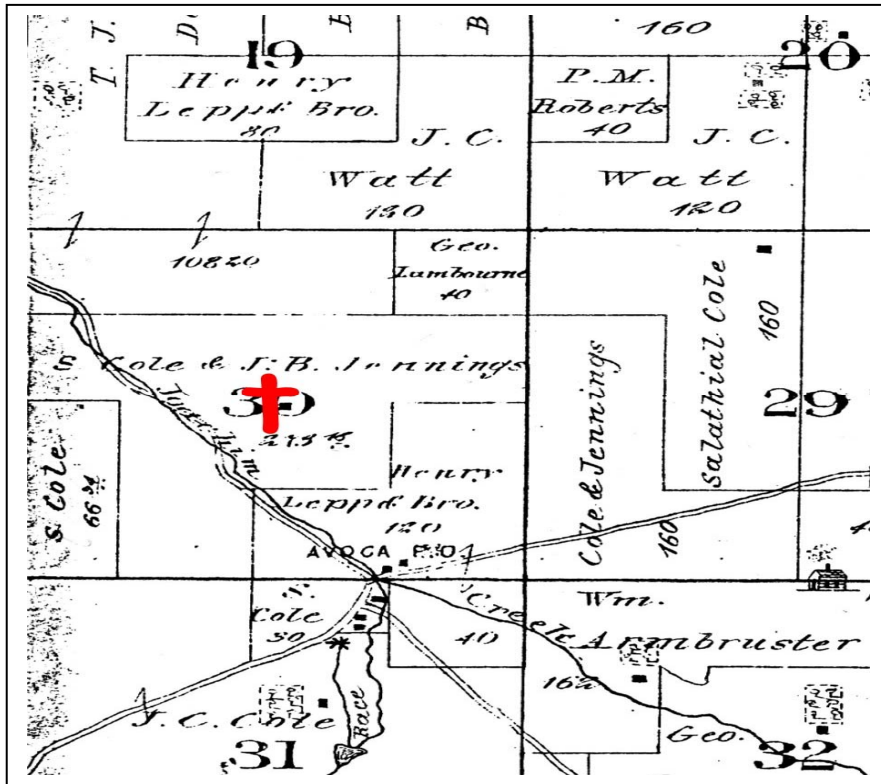
On 7<sup>th</sup> March 1868 recorded after the above document in Book Z page 742 but dated before it, Sarah J. Board of *St. Genevieve County* sell to Joseph B. Jennings of the same place, for \$350.<sup>00</sup> her 1/2 interest in E 1/3 of the SW/NE & SE/NE & SE/SW T39 R5 S30 containing 86.<sup>80</sup> acres; also 1/2 SW/NW & W<sup>2</sup>/SW & SE/NW T39 R5 S29 containing 120 acres; also <sup>37</sup>/<sub>216</sub> interest in SW/SE T39 R5 S35 containing 6.<sup>85</sup> acres; also <sup>1</sup>/<sub>36</sub> interest in SE/NW & NE/SW & NW/SE & W <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>/SW/ NE T39 R5 S30 containing 136 acres, this tract of 136 acres subject to the life estate of Sarah J. Board.

Also on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1868 recorded in Book Z page 743, William Board and wife; Virgil Board all of Jefferson County sell to Joseph B. Jennings of *St. Genevieve County*, for \$350.<sup>00</sup> their <sup>14</sup>/<sub>36</sub> interest in SE/NW & NE/SW & NW/SE & W <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>/SW/ NE T39 R5 S30 containing 136 acres, this tract of 136 acres subject to the life estate of Sarah J. Board.

Next recorded in Book 28 Page 306 on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1885, John C. Cole sells to Joseph B. Jennings for \$200.<sup>00</sup>, "...all S<sup>2</sup>/N<sup>2</sup> & E<sup>2</sup>/SW & NW/SE T39 R5 S30...containing 277.<sup>18</sup> acres.

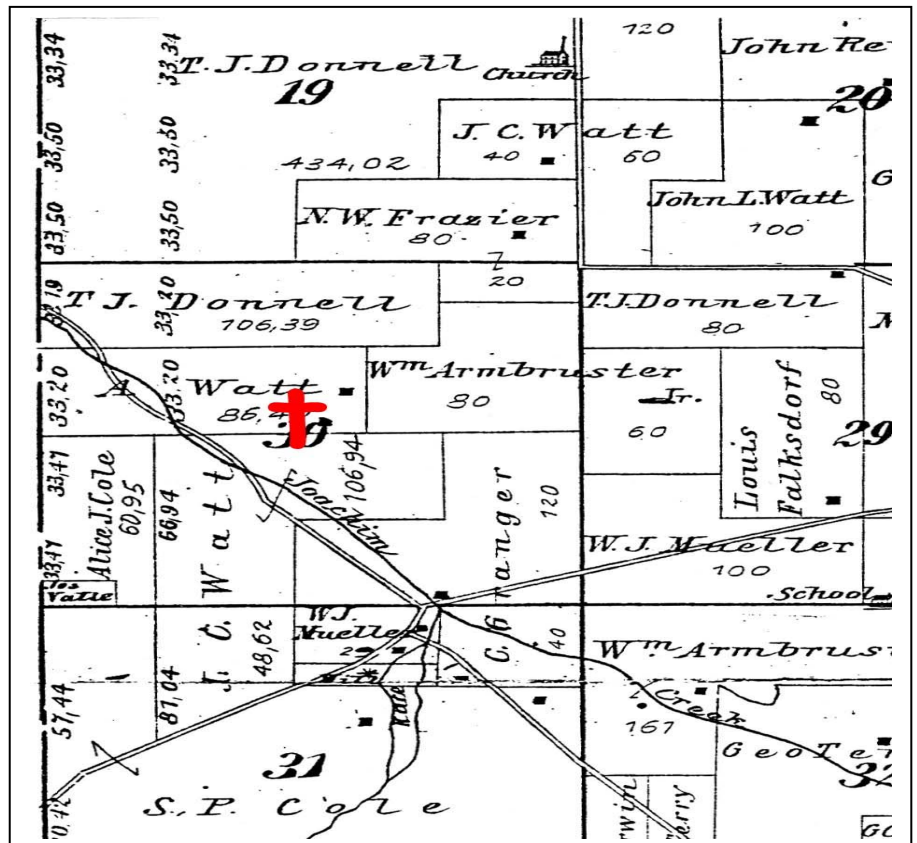
Recorded in Book 28 Page 308 the next deed, 14<sup>th</sup> October 1885, Joseph B. Jennings of *St. Francois County*, sell to John C. Watt of Jefferson County, for \$ 710.<sup>00</sup>, "...all S<sup>2</sup>/N<sup>2</sup> S30 & E<sup>2</sup>/SW & NW/SE T39 R5 S30...containing 273.<sup>18</sup> acres." Jennings keeping 4 acres.

Although no deed was located "excepting out" this cemetery, with Thomas Jefferson Board and Sarah his wife the first persons to own the land and the Board Family buried here per monuments I think we can put an "official" name of **Board, Thomas Jefferson Family Cemetery** on this graveyard.



As can be seen in the picture at left, in 1876 S. Cole & J. B. Jennings are in possession of the Board property. The cross I added to the photo to denote the approximate location of the cemetery.

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





The following persons are listed on the monuments in this cemetery;



In  
Memory of

**Thomas Jefferson  
Board**

Born  
**May 4, 1801**

Died  
**December 6, 1851**

In  
Memory of

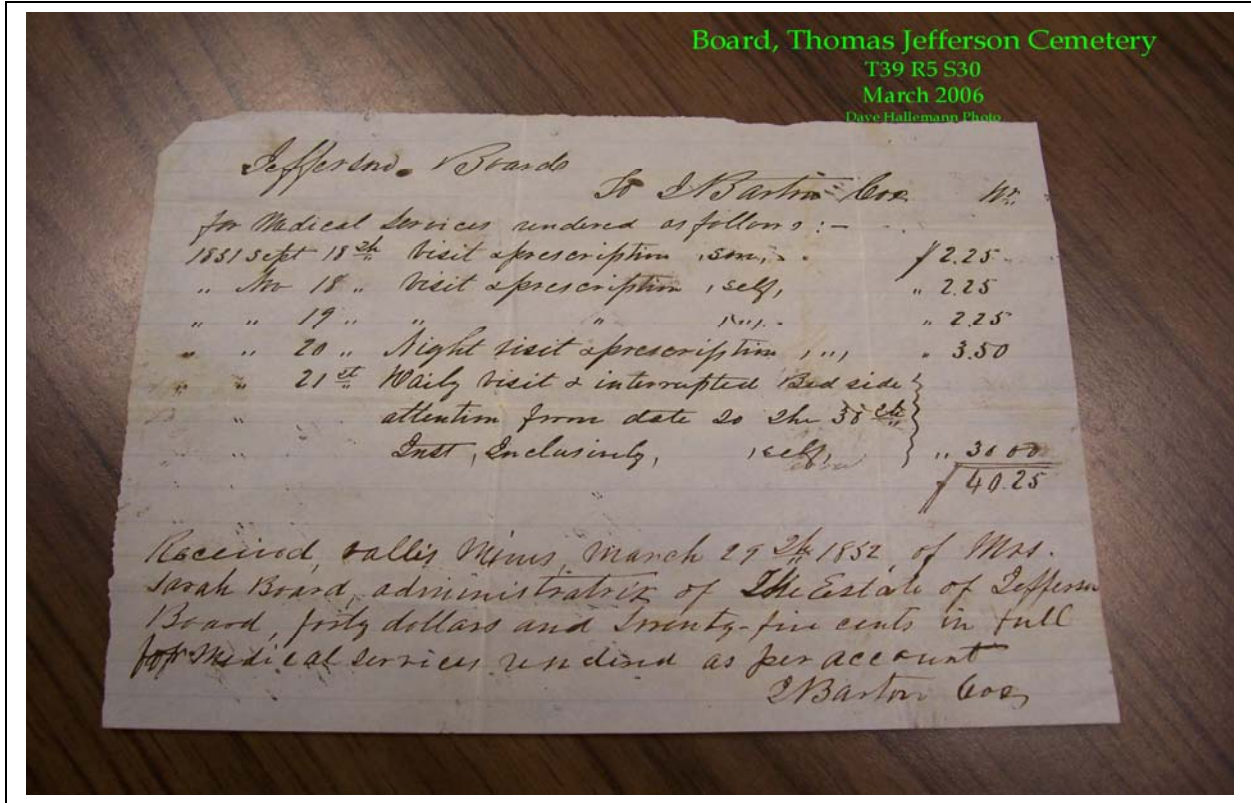
**Robert M.  
Board**

Born  
**May 9, 1837**

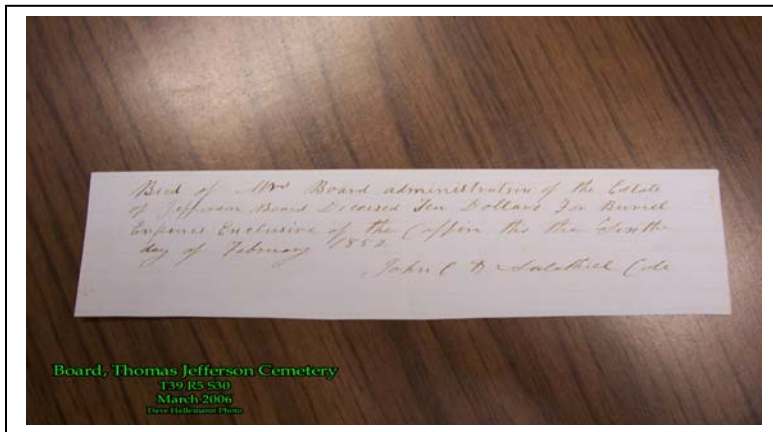
Died  
**August 24, 1856**

Weep not for me



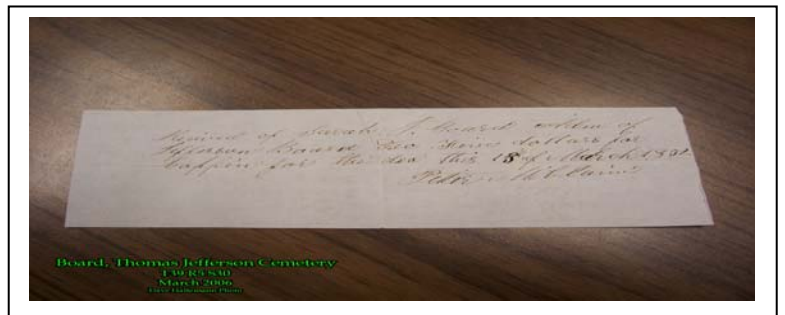


Thomas Jefferson Board's last illness lasted apparently 3 weeks as evidence by a bill from Doctor Barton in his probate file relating he was treated from November 18 through November 30 with Board dying on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1851.



At right is receipt from John C. & Salathiel Cole for burial expenses exclusive of the coffin of \$10.<sup>00</sup>.

Below is the receipt for the coffin from Peter M<sup>c</sup>Clain for \$5.<sup>00</sup>.



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