

Cook Family Graveyard

By Dave Hallemann



This family cemetery with its single monument is located in T40 R6 S33 NW¼ of the NE¼.

38° 9' 28" N / 90° 21' 41" W

Visited March 25th, 2004
by Dave Hallemann, Jerry McKee, Sharon Uding, and Tina Reifsteck.

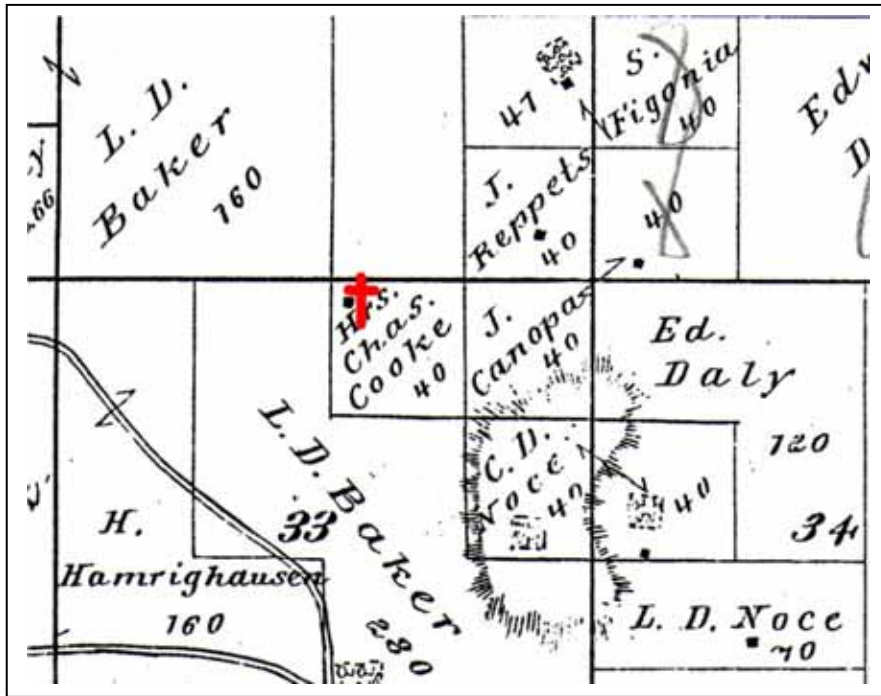
This cemetery is on land first entered by Charles F. Cook of Jefferson County Missouri on January 15th, 1856, preemption certificate number 22451, for the NW¼ of the NE¼ of T40 R6 S33 containing 40 acres.

In Book M Page 234, on 22nd August 1854(?) we find Charles F. Cook and his wife Martha selling to Wm. S. Howe, "...NW¼ of the NE¼ T40 R6 S33, for \$95.⁰⁰, 40 acres..."

Next on 20th January 1858 Wm. S. Howe sells the tract to Edward; Louis Wm.; Samuel Franklin; Elizabeth; Lydia Ann; Christina; and Catherine Cook, for \$60.⁰⁰, NW¼ of the NE¼ T40 R6 S33..." as recorded in Book O Page 308.

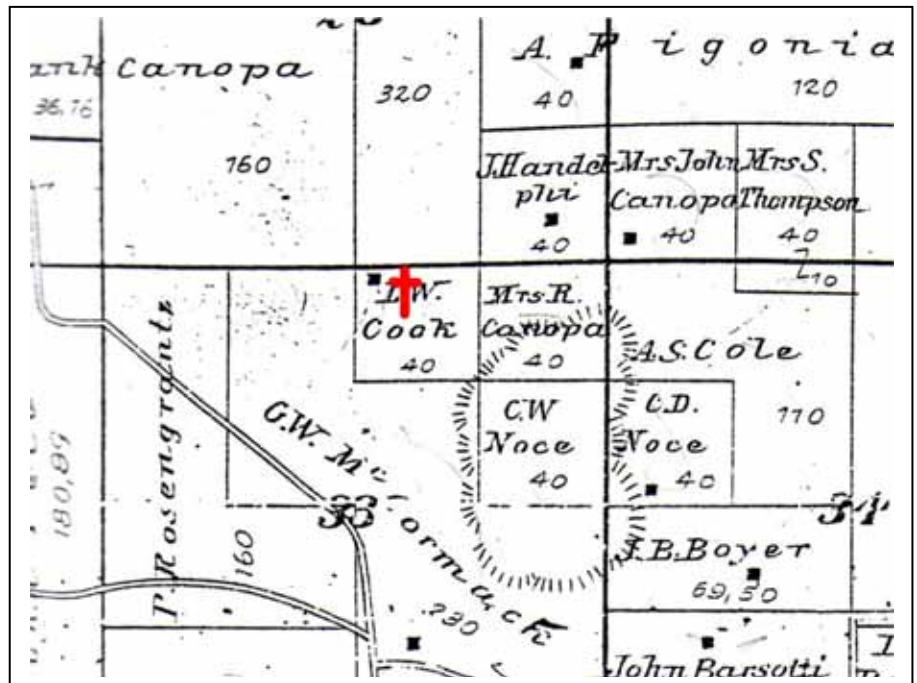
Finally in Book 44 Page 151, dated 21st December 1895 the Cook heirs sell to Louis W. Cook, for \$100.⁰⁰, "All their interest in NW¼ of the NE¼ T40 R6 S33, *reserving ¼ acre used as a family graveyard.*" Signed by Elizabeth Pfiel and her husband Louis; Catherine Fast and her husband Harmon; Mary Blunt and her husband Robert; and Julia Williams and her husband Newton.

With this deed we can "officially" put the name of this cemetery as the ***Cook Family Graveyard.***

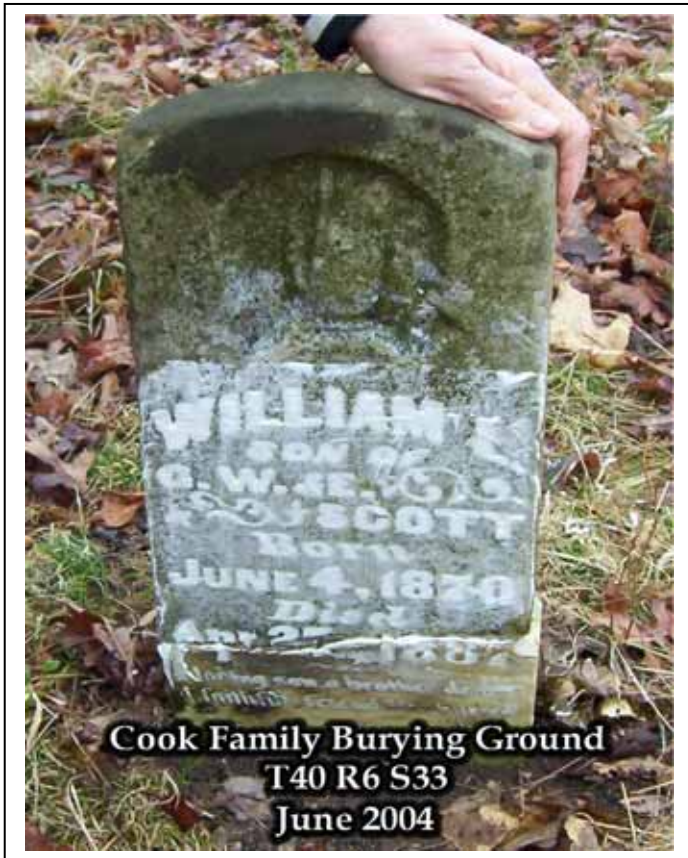


As can be seen in the picture at left, in 1876 the Cook Heirs are in possession of the property. There is a house on this 40 acre farm. The cross I added to the photo to denote the approximate location of the cemetery.

By 1898 Louis W. Cook has purchased this tract from his brothers and sisters. As before I added the cross to show location.



The following person is listed on the monuments in this cemetery;



William L.

Son of
**G. W. & E.
Scott**

Born
June 4, 1870

Died
April 27, 1887

*A loving son, a brother dear,
A faithful friend is buried here.*

Also reported buried in this family graveyard by Evelyn Sickmeier, great granddaughter of Louis Cook, unfortunately no dates given;

Louis and Annie Cook
Frank Cook
Lydia Cook and child
Cook Great Grand Parents
Maggie, Katie and Charles Cook
Unnamed still born child

Otas Fast, Albert Fast and child
Ivan and Freddie Whitesell
Marvin Cook 1 year old child
Howard Cook
Martha (last name unknown)

This background given the Festus Crystal City Conservation Club by Kathy Hankins (Cook), daughter of Gerald Cook,

The Cook Family Cemetery that now lies to the Northwest of the Conservation Club property in Festus, was part of a homestead farm granted to the parents of Louis Cook in the early 1800s. The original 80 acres of farm were homesteaded through the local land agent, a Mr. Howe, for whom the present Howe Crossing is named. This "section" was passed down through the Cook family, and the cemetery is all that is left of the original tract.

Family lore says Louis Cook traded of 40 acres of the land for a 12 gauge shotgun because “the gun was hard to come by and land was not.”

The original log cabin home was located just north of where the cemetery now is and the present day drive into the Club grounds would have run right across the front porch.

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