

The Funeral Home. Most people used Royal Funeral Home. Emma knew of some instances when the body was brought home for the wake. This was not a topic Emma wished to pursue at length.

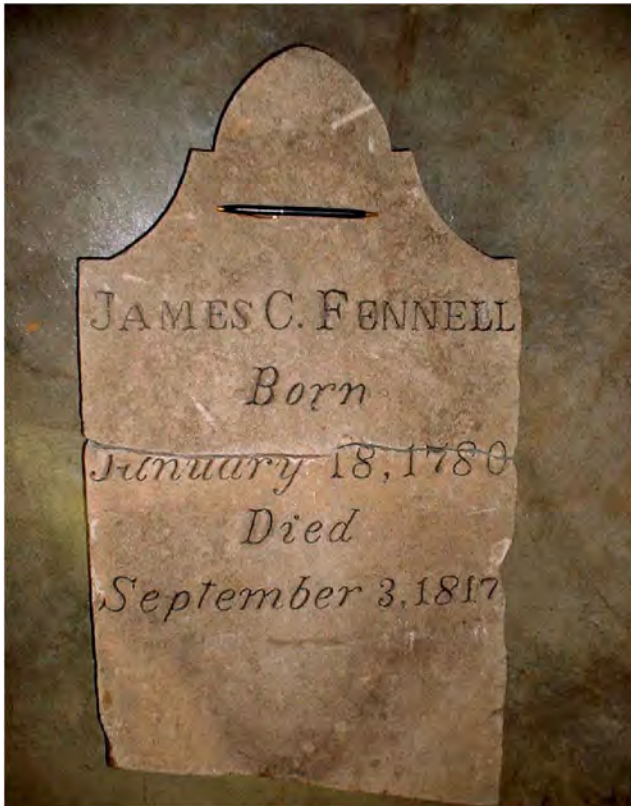
Fennell Cemetery. Emma's mother, her Aunt Maggie Simpson, and her brother, Walter Lee Lankford, are buried in Fennell Cemetery.



Left: The stone of Mary Lightford (1883-1932). **Right:** A view of Fennell Cemetery.

Photographs by John P. Rankin

Those who came before



Tombstone of James C. Fennell, thought to be the oldest in Madison County.

The Fennell Cemetery was in use many years prior to Emma's family burying people there. The name Fennell came from a White plantation owner. The Fennell family dates back to the early settlers of Huntsville. The tombstone of James C. Fennell, born January 18, 1780 and died September 3, 1817, is thought to be the earliest tombstone in Madison County, and only avid historic researchers will discover it. It is held by the Madison County Library in Huntsville.

The Beasley marker in the Fennell Cemetery goes back in time beyond the Lankfords and Hortons who are being discussed. The photo on the next page and Rankin's comments are a window to the past.