

Andrew Drake Cemetery

**ANDREW DRAKE CEMETERY**

Location: Section 8-4-1E. SE SW NE NE SW [May actually be E/2 NE SW]

**Bobby L. Drake**, a direct descendant of **Andrew Drake**, gave me the following statement.

“I Bobby L. Drake, on February 18, 1969 researched through TVA [topographical] maps, Mrs. **Sue Beason**’s letters (dated March 19, 1947 and January 18, 1952), and the Andrew Drake Bible records and have compiled the following information:

“The grave sites are located approximately in the back of 1307 – 1309 Forbes Dr., SE, Huntsville, Alabama 35802. In part of a locust grove I found a brick that was checked by local brick manufacturers and said to be hand made and very old. It is possibly part of a rock house or border for a cemetery mentioned in the letter as the burial place for Andrew Drake’s first and second wives. I have taken color pictures of the entire area. Five graves, and possibly eight, could be there; no proof of last three.”

The following is an excerpt from a letter from Mrs. Sue Beason (deceased in 1954) of Gurley, Alabama to the late **Mrs. H. C. (Kathleen) Jones** dated January 18, 1952:

“... wish I could tell you just where Jabez Leftwich’s monument could be found. He was the father of my grandfather. Andrew Drake’s first wife lived with him all his life and was buried in grandfather’s private plot in the corner of his garden with daughter, grandfather’s second wife, several children, and grandfather. I was there with Mother when I was thirteen years old, and I think there were monuments to all the graves. But a few years after that the place changed hands, all the monuments were moved away, and the place put in cotton. We never did know where they went to. Grandfather had a rock house built over the grave of his first wife, just large enough for two. At the time he built it he intended to be put in it too but when his second wife died he had her put in it ...”

The following information was reconstructed and contributed by **Catherine (Kelly) Gilliam** (Mrs. Richard): Buried in the Andrew Drake Graveyard:

**Jabez Leftwich (Sr.)**

Born ca 1766  
Died after 1850

**Andrew Drake**

Born July 26, 1785, Botetourt Co., Va  
Died Nov. 12, 1858, Madison Co., Al

**Caroline McCartney**

Second wife of Andrew Drake  
Born ?  
Died Oct. 28, 1845, Madison Co., Al

**Pamela Ann Leftwich**

First wife of Andrew Drake and  
daughter of Jabez Leftwich.  
Born Oct. 5, 1787, Bedford Co., Va  
Married first in Va. to George Dixon, Jr.  
(Dixon died in Virginia)  
She died Oct. 19, 1829, Madison Co., Al

Note: Andrew Drake’s third wife was  
**Frances Campbell** who is buried in  
Tennessee.

The cemetery was destroyed around 1960. Besides the above persons, it is believed that four of Andrew Drake’s children and their spouses are also buried here. Andrew had 12 children by three wives. He left 776 acres of land and an estate valued at \$25,000 when he died in 1858. He is believed to have been Baptist.

**Historical information:** Andrew Drake was the eldest son of Capt. **John Drake**. He brought his slaves from Virginia and built his home in Madison County. The home had a spiral staircase two stories high which did not have a single nail in it. Before the property was subdivided, it belonged to **John Acuff** who built another home on the foundation of the original home. A nearby spring has been “blocked in” but it once had a buttermilk section and watercress grew around it.