

## John Drake Cemetery

### JOHN DRAKE CEMETERY

Location: Section 17-4-1E. SE SW SW. This tiny family cemetery is located on the Jones Farm in what is now called "Jones Valley," formerly Drake Cove, and is skirted by Garth Road and Carl T. Jones Drive.

Captain **John Drake** was the patriarch of all Drakes in Madison County, Al. There is no record of him being here before 1811. He was born in Hopewell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey in 1748, removed to Botetourt Co., Va about 1769 and was married at that time to Jane Neely. He acquired 215 acres of land on the Catawba Creek and the Looney Fork Creek out from Fincastle, Va. He fought in the Revolutionary War as a private, in a home guard under **Lt. Col. Dabney**.

John Drake came to Madison County at an early period but all of his children were born in Botetourt Co., Va. John died in his home near the James Drake homestead [now called the Jones farm] in 1839 at age 90 years and is buried in this cemetery.

Among Madison County's first settlers were **James Drake**, his brother **William Drake**, and their brother-in-law **James Neely**. James and William Drake were sons of Capt. John Drake. In May of 1808 these three men came down the Tennessee River from Virginia and settled in what became known as Drake Cove. They built a log cabin and filed for this land Sept. 10, 1808.

Two years later, William Drake sold his interest to James and moved to the Russellville area of Franklin County where some of his descendants still live. James's homestead was built in 1828, is still standing, and is known as the **Carl T. Jones** farm home. This plantation, under the Drakes, grew to over 5,000 acres, five springs, two cemeteries, three plantations and over 100 slaves. Some of the land was owned in part by Drake descendants up to 1983.

A Baptist Church called the "Meridian Line Baptist Church" was in Drake Cove and is thought to be one of the early Baptist Churches in Alabama according to some Drake descendants.

In Memory of  
**James Drake**  
who was born in  
Botetourt County,  
Virginia,  
April 30, 1780,  
died in  
Madison County,  
Alabama  
March 19, 1843  
*Note: Box tomb rebuilt. Son  
of John Drake*

Sacred to the Memory of  
**John Drake**  
who was born  
September 5, 1748 and  
died February 7, 1839.  
The crown that my Savior  
bestows, Yon permanent sun  
will outshine, My joy ever-  
lasting flow, my God, my  
Redeemer, is mine.  
*Note: Box tomb rebuilt. His  
only wife d. in Va. A new  
marble stone has also been  
placed at this location with  
the same information on it as  
is given above.*

In Memory of our mother,  
**Mary A.**, wife of  
**Manson Jones** who died  
February 18, 1862.  
He giveth his beloved sleep.  
*Note: Marble stone. She was  
nee Shannon.*

**Agnes B. Drake**  
Wife of **John R. Drake** and  
Daughter of **David & Sarah  
Shannon**  
Born October 21, 1824  
Died February 25, 1858.  
She was a devoted wife and  
affectionate mother, a kind  
mistress and a faithful  
Christian. She died in  
peace and rests in Heaven.  
Her life extinguished, oh how  
soon. She bloomed at Morn  
and died at Noon. That life at  
dawning shown so bright, yet  
sunk at noon in death's  
cold night.  
But stay impulsive, sighing,

weeping. She is not dead,  
she's  
only sleeping. When God's  
last  
trumpet shakes earth and  
skies,  
she with the saints, shall  
wake  
and rise.

#### **Census, Nov. 18, 1850:**

Drake, John R.	38	Al
Agnes E.	26	Al
Presley N.	7	Al
James	5	Al
David S.	3	Al
Rodah	2	Al
Jack C.	4/12	Al

*Note: John R. Drake married  
Agnes Shannon 21 Jan.  
1841.*

#### **L. Drake**

*Note: This was a broken  
footstone with only the  
initials carved thereon. The  
headstone was gone. It may  
have been the marker of  
Lucinda Girder who married*