

## Brown Cemetery

**Sutton.** J. J. Sutton. 1869 – 1954

**Sutton.** Kitty Sutton. 1873 – 1955 [Shares stone with J. J. Sutton.]

**Sutton.** Josie Sutton. Dau. of J. J. & Kitty Sutton. Born Feb. 9, 1898 – Died Nov. 27, 1911.

**Webster.** Jef Webster. May 25, 1956 – May 27, 1956.

**White.** Infant of Mr. & Mrs. Charley White. Died 1959 aged ... [illegible]

**Whitehead.** Martha C. Whitehead died July 24, 1968 aged 4 Mo., 5 days.

**Williams.** Beatrice Williams. Sept. 25, 1930. [No other information]

**Williams.** Charles A. Williams. March 16, 1925. [No other information. Shared stone with Beatrice.]

**Williams.** Kathy J. Williams. Feb. 20, 1959 – Aug. 22, 1964.

**Worley.** Connie Gaye Worley. Dec. 1, 1959 – March 16, 1960

The following letter was received from June T. Shapiro [Mrs. Norman] (undated) regarding the Browns for which this cemetery is named.

“I have been corresponding with **Ercell Brown Wildsmith**. She is my mother’s first cousin on the Watson side and she was 95 on March 24, 1988. Ercell is in the Alabama Masonic Home in Montgomery, Al and Norm and I have been to see her about three times in the last year and a half. She does not have any immediate family living so I write her once a week and she still writes to me. She is so sharp [mentally] and in fair health.

“Anyway, her family gave the land for the Brown Cemetery on Oak Grove Road and I thought you would like to know a little about that family.

“Ercell’s father is Joseph B. Brown, born November 1862 and died April 15, 1941, buried in Brown Cemetery without a marker. Joseph B. Brown married first Anna Laura Watson on 10 Aug 1889. Anna Laura was born 9 Sept. 1868 and died 9 May 1901 and is buried in the Brown Cemetery without a marker. Joseph married second Rosa Lee (Carpenter) Vann in 1920 but they were divorced shortly afterwards. Rosa Lee was the widow of William W. Vann.

“Anna Laura Watson was the daughter of James Watson and Eliza Ann Locke Watson<sup>1</sup>

“Joseph B. Brown was known as Joe Ben Brown and he was an artist – did charcoal pictures and had an art studio later in Birmingham, Al.

“Ercell gave me some of his poems and I have all her pictures and some of my ancestors’ pictures he did in charcoal.

“Joseph B. Brown was the son of John W. Brown, a pastor, and Mary Caroline Vann Brown.

“Ercell’s grandfather was John W. Brown, born in December 1833, date of death unknown but is buried in this cemetery in an unmarked grave..

“Ercell’s grandmother was Mary Caroline (Vann) Brown who was born in January 1846 but date of death is unknown. She is also buried in this cemetery in an unmarked grave.

“John W. and Mary Caroline Brown were the ones who donated the land for the cemetery. I [June T. Shapiro] know approximately where they are buried. Ercell told me she had wanted to put up a plaque to honor them but never did.

“Only one of Ercell’s brothers is buried in this cemetery: Lawence G. Brown, born in September 1890 but death date unknown. His grave is unmarked. He married Carrie Christian who is also buried here. All the rest of Ercell’s siblings are buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham.

“Joe Ben Brown moved to Birmingham, probably after the 1920’s, and Ercell lived there until she went to Montgomery which was about two years ago.

“Joe Ben Brown and Laura (Watson) Brown had the following children:

1. “Lawence” G. Brown, born in Sept. 1890, death date unknown, buried in Brown Cem. He married first Carrie Christian but the second wife’s name is unknown.
2. “Harry” G. Brown, born in January 1892, death date unknown, buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham. He married Ollie Mae Fuller.
3. Minnie “Ercell” Brown, born March 24, 1893, living in Montgomery, Al. She married Hugh Wildsmith who is buried in Elmwood Cem. also.

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<sup>1</sup> Grandparents of June T. Shapiro