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## Liberty Cemetery

The Liberty Cemetery is located in western Colbert County near the Mississippi border at the intersection of State Line and Liberty roads, in Section 9 of township 4S, Range 15W, southwest of Cherokee. Liberty Cemetery has several unmarked graves and most likely dates to earlier than the first marked grave – that of Ruben Rodgers (1817-1881). According to the 1880 Agricultural Census, Rodgers (or Rogers) owned a small farm of about 30 acres by the time he passed away.

While there are few marked graves at Liberty Cemetery, many of those that are marked and recorded belong to African American farming landowners. Landowning farmers interred here include the Alexander family headed by Brad C. Alexander, who was born in 1886 and owned a farm in the Allsboro area from at least 1930 to 1940 and passed away sometime after 1958. Brad Alexander's mother, Laura (1850-1932), his wife, Lular E. (1889-1960), and his brother, Bids (1874-1943), lived with him in 1920 and 1930 and are buried at Liberty Cemetery as well. Fannie Carter (1872-1960) is also buried at Liberty Cemetery. Her husband, Dude Carter, owned a farm on Cherokee Road in Margerum

in 1940. In that year, Bids Alexander was a boarder in their home. Harvey Fant (1849-1923) owned a farm in Cherokee in 1920. Robert Hordges (Hodges) (1844-1919) owned a farm in the neighboring town of Tishomingo, Mississippi in 1910.

Clarence Ed Tires (1874-1965) and his wife, Minnie Rogers Tires (1886-1964) owned almost 150 acres of land west of Cherokee in 1935 when the TVA surveyed them about the acquisition of about 20 acres of land for the Pickwick Reservoir. The Tires (sometimes spelled "Tiers") lived in a five-room house and tended to mules, horses, cattle, hogs, and chickens on their farm as well as grew corn, cotton, sorghum, peaches, sweet potatoes, and hay. They also rented out land to two sharecroppers – Gertrude Morgan (Tires' daughter) and Richard Carter. By the time the TVA interviewed them, they had paid off their mortgage, possessed no debts, and made a good income from their farm. Despite losing some of their land to the reservoir, the Tires still had 65 acres of cultivable land and had no intentions of moving or making their tenants move. The Tires were one of the fortunate families that did respectively well during the Great Depression and were little affected by the TVA's reconstruction of North Alabama.

(Below) 1930 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Brad C. Alexander Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

TVA 970 9-4-35 <sup>177</sup>  
 Tennessee Valley Authority  
 Schedule No. 0622  
 County Colbert

SURVEY OF FAMILIES  
 Social and Economic Division  
 Fieldman Stewart  
 Date 7/20/35

1. Name Ed Tiers  
 2. P. O. address Cherokee, Tennessee Highway or road Alabama-Margerum  
 3. Miles from home to nearest elementary school 1 High school 8 Church 1  
 4. Chief trade center for family Cherokee  
 Miles from home 1 Average number of trips there per month 4  
 5. Years lived at present residence 23 In present community 60; all of life  
 6. Information concerning house:  
 Rented or owned own Material lumber Bath facilities sew. tub  
 No. of rooms 5 Heating facilities stove Painted? yes  
 No. of sleeping rooms 3 Fuel used wood Condition of repair fair  
 Age 50 Lighting facilities house  
 Type 2 1/2 story Telephone no  
 7. Source of water supply: Well  Cistern  Spring  Other  Yards from house 1  
 8. Toilet facilities: Inside  Outside  None   
 9. Does family own a car? No Make None Age None Years owned None  
 10. Check ownership of following personal possessions: Piano  Phonograph   
 Sewing Machine  Organ  Radio  Electric appliances  Other   
 11. State approximate value of furniture: \$ 100 Condition fair  
 12. Approximate number of books in the home: 6  
 13. Newspapers and magazines that household receives regu'  
 Newspapers None Magazine None  
 14. Church preference: Baptist  
 15. Membership in other organizations: None  
 16. What is husband's occupation? Farming  
 17. Husband's employment during past 10 yrs. (Exclude  
 Dates Kind of Work Earnings Where Empl.  
 18. Family's land:

Tenure	Within Taking Line (Acres)			Outside Taking Line (Acres)			Total Acres
	Cleared	Wooded	Total	Cleared	Wooded	Total	
Rented							
Owned	15		15	55	20	51	126
Rented Out	10		10	35	5	40	50

**TIERS, ED**  
 6/24/36 (Kennedy)  
 Ed Tiers is a negro farmer who has 65 acres of tillable land outside of the taking line. This will be sufficient for his needs, and he does not contemplate relocation. He will also continue to provide land for Gertrude Morgan, share-cropper, and possibly for Richard Carter, share-cropper.

(Left) Excerpt of Handwritten TVA Questionnaire for Ed Tiers (Tires) (Family Removal Files, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) Excerpt of Typewritten TVA Case Notes for Ed Tiers (Tires) (Family Removal Files, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) 1940 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Clarence E. (Ed) and Minnie Tires (Tires) Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

1935	Name	Relationship	Age	Sex	Marital	Occupation	Value	Assets	Notes
186	Alexander, Brad C	Head	44	M	Mar	Farmer	700	90	20
	Lula	Wife-H	38	F	Mar	None			21
	L. Willard	Daughter	21	F	Single	None			22
	Annice M	Daughter	19	F	Single	None			23
	Willie B	Daughter	15	F	Single	None			24
	Samy B	Son	9	M	Single	None			25
	Bids	Brother	52	M	Mar	Farmer	700		26

1	10800	yes	Tiers, Clarence E	Head	M	65	M	Mar	4	Alabama	same house	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	20	Farmer	owner	OA	52	0	yes	1
2			Minnie	Wife <td>F <td>58 <td>M <td>Mar <td>4 <td>Alabama</td> <td>same house</td> <td>yes</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td></td> <td>housework</td> <td>none</td> <td>NP</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>no</td> <td>2</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	F <td>58 <td>M <td>Mar <td>4 <td>Alabama</td> <td>same house</td> <td>yes</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td></td> <td>housework</td> <td>none</td> <td>NP</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>no</td> <td>2</td> </td></td></td></td>	58 <td>M <td>Mar <td>4 <td>Alabama</td> <td>same house</td> <td>yes</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td></td> <td>housework</td> <td>none</td> <td>NP</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>no</td> <td>2</td> </td></td></td>	M <td>Mar <td>4 <td>Alabama</td> <td>same house</td> <td>yes</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td></td> <td>housework</td> <td>none</td> <td>NP</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>no</td> <td>2</td> </td></td>	Mar <td>4 <td>Alabama</td> <td>same house</td> <td>yes</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td></td> <td>housework</td> <td>none</td> <td>NP</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>no</td> <td>2</td> </td>	4 <td>Alabama</td> <td>same house</td> <td>yes</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td></td> <td>housework</td> <td>none</td> <td>NP</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>no</td> <td>2</td>	Alabama	same house	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no		housework	none	NP	0	0	no	2
3			Rogers, Sue	mother-in-law	F <td>78</td> <td>wid</td> <td>no</td> <td>3</td> <td>Mississippi</td> <td>same house</td> <td>yes</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td>no</td> <td></td> <td>housework</td> <td>none</td> <td>NP</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>no</td> <td>3</td>	78	wid	no	3	Mississippi	same house	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no		housework	none	NP	0	0	no	3
4			Bertha May	niece	F <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>no</td> <td>0</td> <td>Alabama</td> <td>R</td> <td>yes</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>4</td>	6	S	no	0	Alabama	R	yes													4	

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource