

Davenport Cemetery, Chilton County, Alabama

By Derric Scott, August 1, 2025 from various sources.

The Davenport Cemetery is the family cemetery of James and Elizabeth Davenport. (Note it is sometimes seen spelled as Devenport). It is located on the now closed section of Chilton County Road 217 just beside the old road about 1300 feet east of the gate ending County Road 217, in the E ½ of the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 20 Township 22 Range 13 East.

James Davenport and his wife Elizabeth ("Jane") were in the first group of settlers that arrived in this area before 1818. They were natives of South Carolina. James Davenport was listed as one of the 4 known (of 20) founding members of the Mulberry Baptist Church. Patsy Campbell (wife of Aaron) was also listed as a founding member and James' son Wilson would later marry Patsy's daughter, Elmina. Wilson, Elmina, and other descendants and relatives of James and Elizabeth were active members of Mulberry Baptist Church for their entire lives. There were numerous Davenport family members in the Mulberry congregation throughout the 19th Century and well into the 20th.

James was an original settler and long-time resident of the area and in 1830-31 he officially obtained 160 acres of land surrounding the cemetery location from the U. S. Government. Many of his family members (brothers, etc.) also obtained land in the area in the same time period. Twenty years later the sons of these Davenports began obtaining land for themselves through the 1850s into the 1860s. Most of this land was in the townships surrounding the area of the cemetery.

The Davenports married into other significant families of the area, including the Campbell, Nix, Cobb, Rasberry, Hubbard, and other families.

Based on existing and visible markers, James Davenport's son Wilson W. Davenport and Wilson's wife Elmina Campbell Davenport are buried in this cemetery. Several children of Wilson and Elmina are there too – son Virgil Pinckney Davenport and daughter Malona Smith. It is highly likely that James and his wife Elizabeth Gentry Davenport are also buried there, although there are no visible markers for them. This is likely because they owned the property, the cemetery was in use, they died in this time-period, and there are no known graves anywhere else for them.

The entire 160 acres of the NE ¼ containing the cemetery was owned by the Davenport family throughout the 19th Century. Wilson and Elmira sold most of their property to P. W. Davenport in December 1885 but they reserved the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ (where the cemetery is located) as their homestead for the rest of their lives. The whole NE ¼ was bought around 1900 by H. S. Oates, probably from the D. H. Davenport estate, and the Oates family owned it for almost all of the 20th Century. This ownership is likely the origin of the name used in the Cemeteries of Chilton County book – Oates-Davenport Cemetery, although there is no evidence that any Oates family members are buried there. Initial research indicated that P. W. Davenport's wife Lela Marie was the daughter of H. S. Oates so the property and cemetery stayed in the extended family well into the latter 20th Century.

DAVENPORT CEMETERY KNOWN BURIALS

Buzbee, Asa	1806-5-21	1886-9-22	I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. 2 Tim, Ch V, 7.
Buzbee, Tabitha	1815-1-19	1890-8-1	W/Asa Buzbee. Gone but not forgotten. Erected by Elizabeth Franklin
Davenport, Elmina	1818-9-14	1912-4-1	She wears a crown of Glory
Davenport, Wilson	1811-3-30	1890-11-10	
Devenport, V. P.	1838-6-1	1865-2-20	Original COCC had "W. P." but clearly is Virgil Pinckney.
Davenport, Rebecca	1820-11-12	1884-5-29	W/D. H. Davenport
Smith, Malona	1847-12-27	1907-4-1	Asleep in Jesus
Spivey, John A.	1876-2-13	1877-3-21	Son/Nathaniel & Mary M. Spivey
Unmarked			About 6 graves
Unmarked			Stone broken, partially missing