

James Scott Family Cemetery, Autauga County, Alabama

By Derric Scott, November 9, 2025 from various sources.

The **James Scott Family Cemetery** is located in the NW ¼ of Section 23 Township 18 Range 15. It appears to be very close or on the line between the NW ¼ and the NE ¼ of that NW ¼. The only visible marker is James' headstone and there is a noticeable depression beside his grave. There are several other depressions that appear to be graves as well.

The only visible headstone in the cemetery is that of the patriarch James Scott. He was born August 23, 1807 and died January 2, 1886. He was apparently the eldest son of Lott Scott. Lott Scott and other neighbors brought their families from North Carolina (via South Carolina) in the 1820s and were among the earliest settlers of Autauga County. Lott's first land purchase found was August 21, 1826 when he bought land from James Huddleston. He settled slightly to the southwest of James Scott's properties, just to the west of Prattville, around what is now Hwy 82. James and his mother Mary served as administrators of Lott Scott's estate after he died, likely very early in 1830. In 1833 Lott's widow Mary married Samuel Fleming. [Samuel Fleming was born in Ireland, served in the Georgia Militia in the Revolutionary War, moved to Autauga Co. in 1821, and obtained BLM land in 1835 neighboring Lott Scott's property. He died February 22, 1844 at 83 years old.]

These Scott families were significant land owners. James Scott owned thousands of acres over his lifetime. James Scott got land all around the area of the cemetery from the US BLM in the 1850s and he obtained the apparent land the cemetery is on from G. Z. Wood in 1860 (the cemetery is right on the line between these pieces). The location of James' homestead is presently unknown. Lott and Mary's homestead was likely just southwest of Hwy 82 in Section 2 and Section 3 of T17 R15, as that is the 77 acres given to Mary for her dower after Lott's death.

James' son, John Wesley Scott, moved slightly north to around Poole's Crossroads in what would become Chilton County. His descendants populated the Kincheon and Sardis areas. John Wesley's burial site is unknown.

The first wife of James was Catherine Griffis from South Carolina. It appears that her father, John Griffis, also moved to Autauga County. James and Catherine were married in 1826, likely in Autauga County. She died in 1867, 19 years before James' death. Her burial place is unknown. James then married Emily Boone of Autauga County. She died before July 1895, when her estate was probated.

An interesting note: members of these Scott families intermarried with the descendants of Clement T. Billingsley, the Revolutionary War soldier and founder of the community of Billingsley.

The only documentation of this cemetery in the usual cemetery listings is in the University of Alabama Cemetery Atlas, cemetery number 175-NE. It says the cemetery contains "the grave of James Scott (1807-1886) and 3 or 4 unmarked graves" and the data was sourced from Autauga Ancestry. Vol. 6, No. 1, Prattville, Alabama: The Autauga Genealogical Society, June, 1996, which reads:

AGS member Otis Shedd recently discovered a little known family cemetery on a wooded ridge off County Road 57. Heading north from Prattville on County Road 57, the Scott Cemetery is located on a logging road on the right near the junction of County Road 51. This area, known to be part of the old Scott homestead, now is on private property with no trespassing allowed. The cemetery contains one headstone and at least three or four unmarked grave sites.

Indulging in some speculation; in addition to James, it is likely that his first wife Catherine is buried in the cemetery. Also, his second wife Emily's gravesite is unknown so she may be buried there as well.