

Mills Cemetery, Chilton County, Alabama

By Derric Scott, October 24, 2025 from various sources.

The **Mills Cemetery** is the family cemetery of William H. Mills (and perhaps his father William Mills, Sr.). The property containing the cemetery was originally patented from the US Government October 16, 1835 by William Mills, Sr. and was the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15 Township 20 Range 13E. Over the years both William Sr. and William H. obtained much more land in the area and W. H. owned this particular piece until around his death in 1905.

W. H. and both his first and second wives are buried in the cemetery. The oldest known burial is his first wife, Mary Ann Tarpley Mills (1844-1869). They married on December 6, 1860 in Autauga County. Perhaps Mary Ann died in childbirth or complications from it since her daughter was born near her time of death. The last known burial was of W. H.'s second wife, America L. Tarpley Mills (1845-1910). They married on March 21, 1870 in Jefferson County. America was Mary's younger sister. William H. was born in 1832 and died in 1905.

W. H. and Mary Ann had (at least) three children, W. H. (the 3rd?, b. 1861 and appears later in Stanton), John W. (b. 1866, d. 1879, likely buried near Mary Ann), and Mary Alice (b. 1868, d. 1892, also buried in this cemetery).

Mary Alice Mills Hinton's grave has an elaborate headstone and is enclosed in a wrought iron fence. She died at age 24, perhaps in childbirth or from complications, as she had a daughter (Jesse V.) born Jan 1891, a little before Mary Alice's death.

W. H. and America apparently had 6 children, with 3 living in 1900. It appears the other burials in the cemetery are her 3 deceased (prior to 1900) children - George W, Grover C., and Ida Bell.

The graves are laid out in an interesting, seemingly intentional, pattern. The oldest grave is near the center – Mary Ann, first wife of W. H. Mills. To her left, in burial date order, are some of W. H.'s children (two from Mary Ann and three from America L.). To Mary Ann's right is her husband W. H. Mills and on his right is his second wife America. All the known burials are in a single straight line.

William Mills, Sr. (1807-1887) was noted as one of the oldest people in the area in the April 3, 1884 Chilton View but sadly his death, April 12, 1887, was recorded a couple years later in the May 5, 1887 Chilton View. It is not known where he was buried; however, it seems likely he may have been interred in this cemetery.

W. H. Mills volunteered for CSA service and achieved rank of Sargent in Hamward's Brigade, Co. E, 53rd Alabama. He died in 1905 and was called "Bill" and "Billy" in some of the newspaper articles. He had a write-up in the March 9, 1905 Banner and the Prattville Progress by the Masons. It mentions he was a long-time Baptist and a loyal Mason.