

Mt. Hope Cemetery, Chilton County, Alabama

By Derric Scott, February 20, 2025 from various sources.

The Mt. Hope Cemetery is the grave yard of the old Mount Hope Baptist Church. It is located in a pasture about 250 feet east of County Road 153, about 0.22 miles north of County Road 44, in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12 Township 23 Range 13 East.

Mt. Hope Baptist Church was a very early church in the county, established around 1849 in Shelby County (before Baker/Chilton County was formed). The peak of the Church's membership was in 1855 when they had 55 members and were in the Shelby Baptist Association. In 1857 they left that Association and switched to the Mulberry Baptist Association. It appears that the church activity dwindled in the 1870-1880 timeframe and was likely dissolved before 1885.

PROPERTY

In 1860 Benjamin Glasscock and his wife Tempy sold 2 acres to the Mt. Hope Baptist Church for \$1.00 to John Lowery, Sr. and Josiah Beasley, Church Committee members. The deed said that the property was "now in use by the said Church and the grave yard." The current property owner of the surrounding land, Mr. George Brasher, said he was told that the church was on the northern part of the site. The cemetery is on the south side.

BURIALS

There are at least three Confederate Civil War Veterans in the cemetery and all of them were murdered by the Blackwell Crowd just days apart. They are Willis Langston and his son Jack Langston, both murdered February 6, 1865, and Charles Banks Cobb, murdered February 10. (Charles Banks Cobb's brother James was said to be in the Crowd and he was murdered in June in retribution.)

Other burials include Louisa Woolley Langston Allen, widow of Willis Langston. She later married Rev. James P. Allen who is also buried in the cemetery. Willis and Louisa Langston owned the property that would become the town of Jemison (it was first called Langstonville and Langston Station).

The three CSA Veterans are the oldest marked burials in the cemetery – February 6 and 10, 1865. It is likely that there are older burials since the 1860 deed mentions the church and grave yard are already "in use." Many Campbells are said to be buried there although no markers are currently known. The last marked burial was Amelia Giles Cobb, November 13, 1915. An obituary in the April 20, 1939 Union-Banner said that Mrs. Mary A. Thaxton, age 61, was buried at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in the Rocky Mount community, but no marker is known.

BLACKWELL CROWD

It is easy to speculate that the vigilante Blackwell Crowd murders and subsequent family feuds may well be the cause of the eventual demise of the Mt. Hope Baptist Church. This is because many families in the Congregation were involved on both sides of the conflict and several families later moved to the west side of Jemison.

Mt. Hope Cemetery Grave Listing

Those graves found in the COCC 1983 survey are listed with survey ID = 24.

Those found/confirmed in the Sep 2023 visit and from 2025 research have survey ID = 265.

Surveys	Name	Birth	Death	Comment
24 265	Langston, (Infant)	1905-8-28	1905-8-28	/J. R. Langston & wife. 1/2 on one marker
24 265	Langston, (Infant)	1907-7-8	1907-7-11	/J. R. Langston & wife. 2/2 on one marker
24 265	Langston, Indiaola	1870-12-18	1871-1-10	Dau/I. N. & Alma Langston
24	L. J. L.			on a foot marker
24 265	Cobb, C. B.	1800-?-?	1865-2-10	She was the sunshine of our home
24	Allen, Louisa	1816-11-?	1882-9-6	Consort of Rev. James Allen. Tribute of respect erected by her husband
24 265	Langston, Willie		1865-2-6	Age about 52Y. From all life's labors he rests on high
24	Allen, James, Rev.	1803-3-5	1885-5-27	
24	Maloney, Mazy wife of		1885-9-18	B. J. Smitherman
24	?, Mary E.	1851-10-9	1865-3-?	1/3 on one stone
24	?, William N.	1858-1-27	1871-3-26	2/3 on one stone
24	?, John A.	1873-4-9	1883-4-1	3/3 on one stone
265	Langston, Liza Jane			dau of GW Langston & wife
265	Cobb, Amelia Giles	1818-03-02	1915-11-13	Wife of C. B. Wed ?0-15-1936
265	Beasley, Josiah	1802	1882-07-03?	Wed ...
265	Beasley, Elizabeth Campbell	?	18??-07-02	Wed ... ?
265	Cobb, Charles Banks	?	1885-04-10?	Pvt Co E 31 Ala Inf
265	Langston, Andrew J	1843-02-10	1865-02-06	"Jack" CSA Camp of Instr Talladega
265	Glass, J. M., Rev.		1911-02-03	From Banner obit, beside father
265	Thaxton, Mary A.	1878	1939-04-16	From UB obit. Death cert: wife of Jim