

Mt. Zion Cemetery, Chilton County, Alabama

By Derric Scott

The **Mt. Zion Cemetery**, near Plantersville, is the graveyard for the old African-American Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The Church owned two acres along the road and that property is still in their name today, although it isn't clear that anything of the church or congregation still exists.

Very little information on the Church has been found thus far. The earliest mention of it was in a marriage certificate in 1898 for Wilbern B. Morrow and Lilian L. Peoples. There were other marriages on through the 1920s and burials were noted on death certificates into the 1950s.

Many of the marriages were performed by Rev. James N. Bailey and he is one of the graves in the cemetery with a visible headstone today. The only other minister mentioned was Thomas M. Canty. Rev. Canty lived in the Plantersville area around 1920 and later moved to Selma and pastored churches there.

The ***Cemeteries of Chilton County*** entry says that the church burned but gives no other information. It also says that it contains approximately 200 graves. Today only a handful of headstones, slabs, field stones, and depressions are visible.

Known surnames of the marriages, deaths, and burials include Morrow, Peoples/Peeples, Rush, and Bailey. There is also Waters, Ware, Seymore, Abercrombie, and Callins (Collins?).

All the property surrounding the Church and Cemetery became part of the Talladega National Forest in the 1930s. Today the Cemetery is indistinguishable from the National Forest around it except for the few remaining markers and there is no evidence that a church was ever there.