

Shiloh Baptist Cemetery, Chilton County, Alabama

By Derric Scott

The **Shiloh Baptist Cemetery** is located just off County Road 50 west of Thorsby. It is the graveyard for the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church which was founded in 1883 by Curtis & Harriet (Campbell) Gentry and Turner & Francis Campbell. The cemetery is still in use.

The first three known burials are daughters of John and Jane (Jan/Janie) Campbell – 13 year old Amanta/Amanda in January 1880, 15 year old Lucenda/Lucinda in May 1880, and 19 year old Tera Campbell in October 1887. Tera was apparently named after her grandmother, Otera. Two of these three stones are visible today (Tera's and likely Amanta's).

These Campbells all have direct relationships with the Campbell family that created the Campbell Settlement only about three miles to the southwest. Research indicates that Turner and John were the children of Mattison (Mat) and Otera Campbell and that Harriet Campbell Gentry was likely the daughter of John and Jane, all of whom were enslaved by Aaron and Martha Campbell prior to emancipation.

Curtis (Kirk) Gentry purchased a significant amount of property in the area in the 1870s including the church/cemetery site from J. P. Nix in 1875. In 1901 he sold the property (for \$10) to the church, where they were already holding services "as long as it may be used for church purposes, but when it ceases to be so used it shall revert to me." His grandson, J. D. Gentry, sold (for \$10) the full rights to the property to the church in October of 1986. The church has also purchased more property over time.