

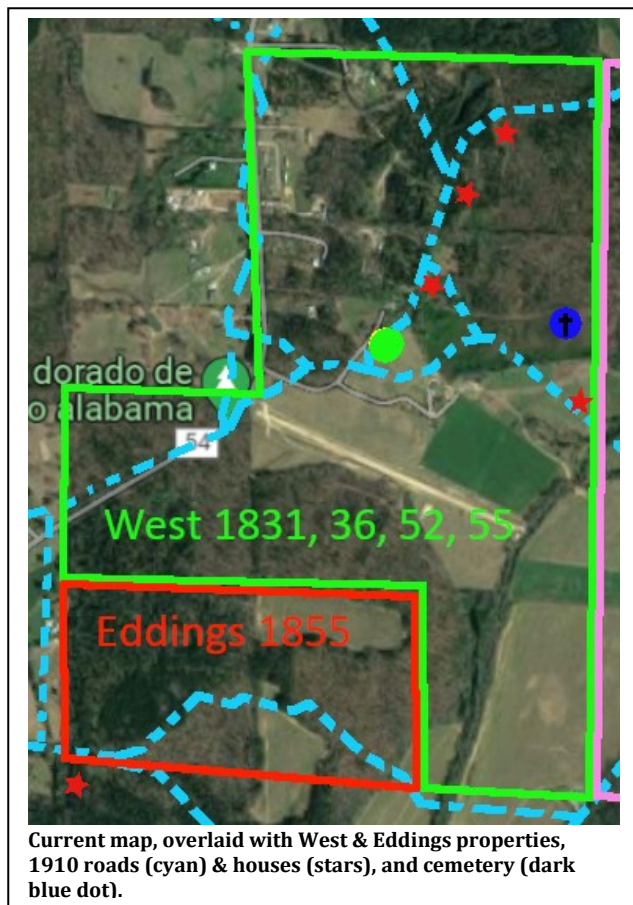
West-Eddings Cemetery, Chilton County, Alabama

By Derric Scott, June 30, 2025

The **West-Eddings Cemetery** is located in north west Chilton County east of address 2132 County Road 54, about 1500 feet into the woods on the property of Matt and Suzy Mitchell (former property of G. Douglas Nichols). It is in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 23, T24N, R12E. Prior to the creation of Baker/Chilton County, this part of the state was Shelby County and it is just under 3 miles from Mahan Creek, then the dividing line with Bibb County.

The cemetery is listed with the *Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance* as ID No. **11-004583** as "**West Family Cemetery**" and with the *University of Alabama Cemetery Atlas* as ID/Locale **233-NW** as "**Old Eddings**" and in the *Cemeteries of Chilton County* as "**West Family**."

The West and Eddings families were inaugural settlers of this part of Chilton County and both families buried their relatives in the **West-Eddings Cemetery**. Other burial surnames found, such as the Oldhams, are all related.



Jefferson West (1802 TN-1868) and his older brother William West (1795 VA-1869) established homesteads in Bibb and Shelby Counties in the 1830s or before. Their children were all born in Alabama. There were (at least) three Jefferson Wests, the main one of interest was William's brother (b 1802). Another was Jefferson's son (b 1841), and the other was William's son (b 1826). Jefferson West (William's brother) obtained a U. S. Patent for his future homestead in 1831. It was just in Shelby County, across Mahan Creek from his brother William, who was in Bibb County. (All this land would become Baker/Chilton County in 1868.) In 1836 Jefferson West (still likely William's brother) also obtained the property (W ½ of the SE ¼) that included the area where they would establish this cemetery, on a hilltop, overlooking his homestead. In 1855 Ezekiel Eddings obtained neighboring property from the U. S. Government.

There are at least 7 CSA burials or markers in the cemetery, including a 3 sided obelisk, a cenotaph, honoring William's brother Jefferson West's 3 sons who died in the war. Those sons were: Sgt. Hugh R. West (buried Chattanooga 1863), Jefferson G. West (died 1/2/1862, buried Chattanooga), and Joshua O. West (died Florida 12/12/1862). Other CSA soldiers were Pleasant H. West (1835-1874), Charles B. West (1834-

1899), Elbert E. West (d 1907), and Ezekiel Eddings (1806-1875).

The first known burial is Johnnie E. Eddings, October 28, 1858, the 2.5 year old son of N. and M. J. Eddings. The last known burial was P. R. Oldham, November 17, 1908. Another reported burial was Isaac Jefferson Eddings said to be after 1910 by his grandson (likely 1913).

One note, there was a horrendous murder of Mrs. Mary Jane King in the Dry Valley area in 1909. Later newspaper reports in October of 1958 indicated that her son Homer W. King came to install a marker on her grave and that she was buried in the "Gip West old cemetery." (Gipson "Gip" G. West, b. ~1851, was a son of Jefferson, b 1802, and Mary Ann Brown West). According to the reports in the newspapers, unfortunately Mary Jane King's grave was unmarked and no one knew exactly where it was located.

The grave listing of the **West-Eddings Cemetery** from the *Cemeteries of Chilton* census:

Name	Birth	Death	Comment
West, Fran P.	1848-12-2	1874-2-15	
West, Pleasant H.	1835-10-9	1874-1-13	(CSA)
Oldham, Susan M. West	1844-1-4	1873-7-9	W/J. S. Oldham
West, E. H., Rev.	1836-3-11	1872-11-6	
West, Charles B.	1834-4-9	1899-1-23	(CSA)
Farrington, Laura P. West	1855-8-31	1886-5-20	W/J. E. Farrington
West, Pairlee E. Lolly	1834-5-8	1865-2-5	W/J. Q. West
West, Elbert E.		1907-05-11	Son/E. E. & F. M. West (CSA)
West, Henry		1905-05-21	Son/E. E. & F. M. West
West, Idalee		1898-3-23	W/Ed West. Age 29Y.
West, (Infant)	1896-12-16	1896-12-16	/E. P. & L. A. West
West, Mary Ann	1811-9-15	1895-11-30	W/Jefferson West
West, Jefferson	1802?	1868-3-22	B East Tenn. Stone broken
West, John A.	1828-7-7	1897-1-29	Masonic emblem
West, H. R., Sgt.	1830-2-16	1863-12-12	CSA, buried at Chattanooga Tenn. 1/3 on one stone
West, Jefferson G.	1841-4-6	1862-1-2	CSA, 2/3 on one stone
West, Joshua O.	1832-7-23	1862-8-17	CSA, 3/3 on one stone
Eddings, Ella L.	1833-10-15	1898-3-18	W/J. F. Eddings
Eddings, Mary	1816-4-22	1891-1-13	W/Ezekiel Eddings
Eddings, Ezekiel	1806-2-11	1875-10-18	(CSA)
Eddings, Johnnie E.	1856-1-7	1858-10-28	Son/N. & M. J. Eddings
Eddings, Sarah A.	1843-11-30	1884-7-18	
Eddings, William T.	1851-12-18	1879-7-15	
Oldham, P. R.	1870-11-23	1908-11-17	Masonic emblem
Oldham, Susan Ester	1892-10-27	1892-11-17	Dau/P. R. & Ida Oldham
Unmarked			10 or more graves
Oldham, George			(unable to read inscription)
Eddings, Isaac Jefferson	1853-07-14	aft 1910	(Reported by Gson James O Eddings)
West, Eliza M. Horton			(Reported here, wife of John A. West)
West, Minerva G. Moore			(Reported here, wife of Charles B. West)
Eddings, Will	1881-12		(Reported here. Son of Isaac and Ella Eddings)