

Williamson Cemetery, Chilton County, Alabama

By Derric Scott

The **Williamson Cemetery** is a small family graveyard beside the parking lot of the Old Macedonia Church on County Road 55. It is across the road from the present-day **Old Macedonia Cemetery**. It is in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 35, Township 23, Range 15E and is on property owned by the church; however, it is apparently not actively maintained. Also it is directly under power lines and is sprayed with herbicide so the few visible markers are subject to damage by the power company maintenance activities.

There are only a few marked graves. The listing in the *Cemeteries of Chilton* from the 1982 survey:

Camilla Williamson	b 6 Jun 1883	d 7 Sep 1883	(Dau. of J. W. and M. J. Williamson)
Malinda Black	(~1840)	d 4 Jun 1890	(Wife of John, Age 50Y)
Elizabeth Tohmerson	(~1803)	d 8 Oct 1883	(Wife of J. W., Age 80Y)

There are several other graves delineated with stones/bricks, old flowers, and depressions. The Camilla Williamson grave documented in the survey is not identifiable at present.

The research into these graves is hindered by numerous factors, including deaths in the Civil War and many marriages with the same 2 or 3 surnames. The families originated in Tallapoosa County and a number of them moved into Chilton County sometime in the mid-1870s to mid-1880s. There is a good bit of uncertainty, but the most likely scenario at present is that:

Malinda's maiden name was likely Thomason and she was married several times. She may have first married James Black (m 1858) then James A. Peoples (1862). Peoples likely died in the Civil War. In the 1870 FC Malinda was likely the person living with Elizabeth Thomason named "Malinda Thomason" (perhaps she had returned to using her maiden name?).

John Black married Malinda Peoples in 1871. After Malinda died in 1890, John Black married Nancy Cleckler on 16 December 1891 and lived in the Cane Creek area. It's possible that Nancy Cleckler's uncle William Cleckler (1810-1887) had owned the land the cemetery is on and had obtained it from the BLM on 20 March 1885 (NE ¼ of the NW ¼) (so the cemetery was already being used at least a couple years before the land purchase).