

BRAXTON LEE CEMETERY

**104 Hibiscus Drive
Ashland City, TN**

History

Braxton Lee was a very prominent, early settler of middle Tennessee. He operated a large plantation with several forms of commerce on the north banks of the Cumberland River. His plantation was known as Leeland Station and provided supplies and food to riverboats from around 1796 to 1841.

Braxton established a family burial ground at his first residence that was located behind the present address at 104 Hibiscus Drive in Ashland City Tennessee.

There is a record that establishes that Braxton Lee and his first wife, Elizabeth Ann Hatcher are buried at this location. Records of their tombstones have been recorded. These stones are no longer available. James "Bud" Hallums, Cheatham County Historian, informed Richard H. Hunter that the tombstones were pushed into the roadbed when Hibiscus Drive was built and paved over.

It has been repeatedly passed down through the Hunter family that Jacob Hunter and his wife, Mary Polly Dancer Hunter Lee are also buried at this location. This was documented in a letter Lawrence Lee Hunter sent to Richard H. Hunter, Trustee of the Jacob Hunter Trust dated August 18, 2009.

Mary Polly Dancer Hunter married Braxton Lee on May 20, 1808 on the same day that Mary Polly's son Emmanuel Hunter married Braxton Lee's daughter Judith Lee. The Lee and Hunter families had been close friends for several years and Braxton Lee and Mary Polly served as executors of Jacob Hunter's estate.

For many years the cemetery was unmarked and nearly forgotten. Beginning in 1999, representatives of the Jacob Hunter Trust began efforts to bring attention to this historic cemetery and to have it recognized and registered.

On January 10, 2008 Richard H. Hunter, Lawrence Lee Hunter, Thomas E. Hunter, and Murry Hawkins did a quick survey of the cemetery. We located 9 adult graves and one baby grave. It was very cold and raining that day and we worked for only about 30 minutes. On October 12 & 13, 2009, Richard Hunter returned with R. David Lee and Duane Elliott and conducted a much more thorough survey. We located 22 graves and marked the boundaries of the cemetery plot. On October 23, 2009 Marvin Wright of Wright & Associates Land Surveyors completed a survey of the cemetery that was recorded in the Cheatham County Records Office in Ashland City.

The documents to follow represent some of the work assembled by the Jacob Hunter Trust to document and register this historic cemetery.

Works Progress Administration
CEMETERY and BIBLE RECORDS
Cheatham County, Tennessee

Recorded 1938
Printed 1987

JAMES B. HALLUMS
COUNTY HISTORIAN CHEATHAM COUNTY
106 Smith Street
Ashland City, Tenn: 37015

published by

WHITWORTH AND WHITWORTH
Box 134 Route 5
Ashland City, TN 37015

WPA

CEMETERY and BIBLE RECORDS

Cheatham County, Tennessee

Edited by
Debbie and Jerry Whitworth

JAMES B. HALLUMS
COUNTY HISTORIAN CHEATHAM COUNTY
106 Smith Street
Ashland City, Tenn. 37015

CHEATHAM COUNTY
TOMBSTONE - INSCRIPTIONS
LEE CEMETERY

These records came from a small graveyard in the back yard of J. D. Binkley, Ashland City, Tennessee. The stones were all covered but the information was given by Mr. Binkley. The Lee's came from Virginia to Tennessee about 1798 and was of English Ancestry. There were lawyers and County Officials in the Lee Family in Ashland City for about a period of twenty five years. There are eight unmarked graves. Copied by Edna Hunter, Ashland City, Tennessee. October 1, 1937

Baxton Lee
Born 1768
Died 1811

Annie Lee
Born 1769
Died 1807

Editor's Note

1. "Braxton" was penciled in above "Baxton".
2. "1st wife" was penciled above Annie Lee.

CREATON COUNTY

TOMBSTONE - INSCRIPTIONS
LEE CEMETERY

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Copied by Edna Hunter, Ashland City, Tennessee
October 1, 1937

Baxton
Baxton Leo
Born 1763
Died 1811

Annie
Annie Leo
Born 1780
Died 1807

From Bible and Tombstone Records
The Historical Records Survey
June 27, 1939
Division of Women's and professional projects

* Edna Hunter's husband was H. D. Hunter

**Lee Cemetery
Ashland City, TN**

In August, 2001 Lettie Hunter of Carterville corresponded with Mrs. Josephine McMahan, a volunteer at the Cheatham County Historical & Genealogical Association, 233 N. Vine Street, Ashland City, TN 37015. Mrs. McMahan sent a record she found of the old Lee Cemetery in Ashland City. The record was copied by Edna Hunter (wife of H.D. Hunter) and later published in The Historical Records Survey, June 27, 1939, Division of Women's and Professional Projects. The record copied by Edna Hunter has been retyped below.

Cheatham County

Tombstone--Inscriptions

Lee Cemetery

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The Lee's came from Virginia to Tennessee about 1796 and was of English ancestry. There were Lawyers and County Officials in the Lee Family in Ashland City for about a period of twenty five years.

There were eight unmarked graves.

Copied by Edna Hunter, Ashland City, Tennessee

October 1, 1937

Baxton Lee

Born 1763 (1766)

Died 1811 (1841)

Annie Lee

Born 1759 (1768)

Died 1807

Mrs. McMahan wrote to Lettie, "This cemetery was destroyed when Hibiscus Drive and its houses were built. What a shame. Braxton Lee was one of our earliest settlers as well as politician. The rock markers were pushed off in a deep gully. Hibiscus is on a hill overlooking Marrowbone Creek (now part of Cheatham Lake.)"

What Mrs. McMahan told Lettie about the cemetery was what I (Richard Hunter) was told by Mr. James B. (Bud) Hallums of Ashland City in June, 1999. Mr. Hallums reported that he remembered seeing the stones as a young boy, but when the road was built the headstones were pushed into the road bed and covered over. Mr. Hallums indicated there were several graves, but he only remembered seeing two headstones. The address of the present home where the old Lee Cemetery was located is 104 Hibiscus Street. According to Mr. Hallums, the old Lee Cemetery was between the house and Hibiscus Street, which would be the front yard of the house.

Richard H. Hunter, 9/6/2001

Cheatham Co. Historical
Geneological Assoc.
233 N. Vine St.
Ashland City, TN 37015



Mrs. Lettie Hunter
307 Main St.
Cantonville, Ga 32918



Ms. Hunter,

I am a volunteer worker in the Cheatham County Historical and Geneological Association's office on Thursdays.

We are located in the basement of the library at 233 N. Vine St., Ashland City, TN 37015

the librarian brought your letter down for ~~me~~ us to answer. I've searched our cemetery record books and am inclosing a copy of what I found. This cemetery was destroyed when Hibiscus Drive and it's houses were built, what a shame. Braxton Lee was one of ~~our~~ ^{our} earliest settlers as well as politician.

The rock markers were pushed off in a deep gully. Hibiscus is on a hill overlooking Marrowbone Creek (Now part of Cheatham Lake.

I looked in our Family Files and

found a newsletter of the
Jacob Hunter Trust, It must be
your family.

I find it interesting that one
of your ancestors fought for the
confederacy in the Texas militia.

My grandfather, J.M. Duke went
to Marshall Texas as a merchant
and joined the Texas rangers while
there.

I'll keep on the look out
for more Jacob Hunter information.

Jim Allen, who does our
computer work will try to
contact you by E-mail.

Sincerely
Josephine Memahan

JAMES B. HALLUMS
COUNTY HISTORIAN CHEATHAM COUNTY
106 Smith Street
Ashland City, Tenn. 37015

106 Smith Street
Ashland City, Tennessee
May 20, 1965

Mrs. Lorene J. Cruse
1101 E. St. Louis Street
West Frankfort, Illinois

Re: Braxton Lee
and
Jacob Hunter

Dear Mrs. Cruse:

Your letter dated April 15, 1965 addressed to Mr. Dempsey Hunter has been turned over to me for a reply.

Braxton Lee lived on Marrowbone Creek in Davidson County, Tenn. (Now Cheatham County). He came here in 1796 from Fluvanna County, Virginia. Cheatham County, Tennessee was created in 1856 and so was Ashland City on land adjoining the Home Place that was owned by Braxton Lee at the time of his death in 1841. In 1834 he deeded 2 acres of land for a church which was known as "Leeland Meeting House". It later became known as "Forest Hill Church" and was used by all congregations. This church was a log building and was used also as the County Court house of Cheatham County from about 1857 to 1860. In 1913 this church was torn down and the logs were used to build a residence which is located in front of the Cheatham County Central High School at the present time.

The church property is now known as Forest Hill Cemetery and is the only Public Cemetery located inside the present city limits of the town of Ashland City.

The home place where Braxton Lee lived and was buried is now a sub-division known as Hibiscus Drive. The Family Tomb Stones have been removed and I have been unable to locate them. The Davidson County Marriage Records Book One show the following information: Braxton Lee to Polly Hunter--license issued May 20, 1808--Page 91.
Manuel Hunter to Judith Lee--license issued May 20, 1808--Page 83

It appears that Braxton Lee and his daughter Judith Lee had a double wedding.

I did not find a will for Jacob Hunter. He died about 1806 and Braxton Lee and Polly Hunter were his Administrators. He had 6 heirs (their names are not given in the records).

The name Thomas W. Feeland--appeared as Intermarring with one of the heirs.

I doubt if there is an old cemetery at the Mouth of Sycamore Creek. The early settlers lived on the high ground and farmed the creek and river bottoms. This land was always subject to flooding. I am enclosing a copy of Braxton Lee's will and the Deed to the church property and Mary Lee's Bill of Sale.

If I can be of further service to you, please let me know.

JAMES B. HALLUMS
COUNTY HISTORIAN CHEATHAM COUNTY
106 Smith Street
Ashland City, Tenn. 37015

Very truly yours,

James B. Hallums
Historian for Cheatham County

THE LEE FAMILY OF GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Early records concerning this Lee family began appearing about the same time as Goochland County was formed from Henrico County in 1727. Records show that John Lee bought land on Ready Branch on the north side of the James River in September 1728. Earlier records in Henrico County show that Peter Lee received a Land Grant of 126 acres in 1656. As of this writing, there is no established relationship with this Peter Lee or any other Lee before John.⁽¹⁾ Goochland County is situated along the James River west of the Richmond area. Because of this proximity, probability suggests that the John Lee family is somehow related to the famous Richard Lee family of Virginia and Maryland. Research on this subject would have to be done in Virginia and hopefully someone will find the "missing link". Other Lee families mentioned in early Virginia history from this locale were:

Thomas and Elizabeth Lee,	ca 1714	Elk Island
	ca 1740	Owens Creek
Hugh and Mary Lee	ca 1720	Bristol Parrish
John and Catherine Lee	ca 1720	Bristol Parrish
Matthew and Anne Lee	ca 1720	Bristol Parrish
Charles and Anne Lee	ca 1743	Goochland Co.

An important event in the John Lee⁽¹⁾ family occurred on November 15, 1737. John Lee⁽¹⁾ purchased 200 acres on Fleming Park Creek on the north side of the James River in the St. James Parrish. Most of the records of the St. James Parrish were recorded by the Reverend William Douglas, pastor of the Dover Church. Reverend Douglas recorded many births, marriages and deaths during his ministry there. These records are critical in establishing our genealogy. From his writings it is evident that he was of sound faith and a great follower of the puritan ethic. Both James Monroe and Thomas Jefferson were students of Reverend Douglas. The reverend's impact upon the Lee family was very great it seems and the message he taught trails down through several generations. That fact is evidenced by several situations and documents which reference the grace of God upon this Lee family.

John⁽¹⁾ Lee and his wife Lucy had four children that we know of. John,⁽²⁾ Deborah,⁽²⁾ Benjamin,⁽²⁾ and Stephen.⁽²⁾ John⁽²⁾ married Betty Page, September 11, 1755 and raised nine children. He died July 19, 1779 at the age of forty-five. Deborah⁽²⁾ married John Hodges ca 1756 and had three children. Benjamin⁽²⁾ married Mary Richardson, daughter of Robert and Sarah Richardson, in September of 1766. They had no children of their own. He died in Franklin, Tennessee ca 1803. Stephen⁽²⁾ married Ann Poor on November 3rd 1763. Ten children were born to this family and prior to 1790 they moved to Lincoln (now Pulaski) County, Kentucky. Stephen⁽²⁾ died there ca 1809. There is a large number of Lees in that area today. Somerset, Kentucky is the county seat of Pulaski County.

Reverend Douglas records that he preached John⁽¹⁾ Lee's funeral on October 13, 1770. His text was Job 30:23. Mrs. Lee's funeral soon followed in July of 1771. This time he chose Luke 10:41,42 for his text.

During the years of the revolution we find Benjamin⁽²⁾ enlisted in the Fluvanna County Militia in 1777. It was at this time that Fluvanna was formed from Albermarle (Goochland) County being on the south side of the James River.

By the 1790 census, Stephen⁽²⁾ and Ann had already moved to Kentucky. One son, Thomas⁽³⁾ was already married & another, Braxton⁽³⁾ had remained in Virginia. Braxton⁽³⁾ married Elizabeth Ann Hatcher on February 1, 1790. She was the daughter of Archibald Hatcher of Franklin County, Virginia. The census shows four whites and four blacks in the household of Benjamin⁽²⁾ Lee. Since they had no children I guess these two were Braxton⁽³⁾ and Annie, as she was called.

In 1796 Benjamin⁽²⁾ and Mary Lee along with nephews John⁽³⁾ son of Benjamin's late brother John⁽²⁾, and Braxton⁽³⁾ Lee (Stephen's⁽²⁾ son), along with their families, moved to Tennessee. John⁽³⁾ had married Jane Tuggle in July of 1788 and they had three children at this time; Henry Tuggle⁽⁴⁾ age seven, John⁽⁴⁾ age four, and Janey⁽⁴⁾ age three. Braxton⁽³⁾ and Annie already had four children by this time; Polly⁽⁴⁾ age six, Judith⁽⁴⁾ age four, Sally⁽⁴⁾ age three, and Benjamin⁽⁴⁾ age two. I do not know who else was in this

JAMES B. HALLUMS
COUNTY HISTORIAN CHEATHAM COUNTY
106. Smith Street
Ashland City, Tenn. 37015

caravan of thirteen, but I would like to think that they traveled via Somerset Kentucky to a reunion with Braxton's⁽³⁾ parents, Stephen⁽²⁾ and Ann. Maybe this is where Braxton's⁽³⁾ brother Lewis Henry⁽³⁾ joined the trip. At age twenty-eight Lewis Henry⁽³⁾ Lee was still unmarried. He later married Nellie Long (1798) and was a trumpeteer in the calvary at the Battle of New Orleans. He died January 30th, 1815 at the age of forty-seven.

Upon arrival in Nashville in late 1796 or the winter of 1797, the Lee families settled on a 640 acre tract on the Cumberland River at the Mouth of Marrowbone Creek. This site is now Ashland City, Tennessee. Although in Davidson County all of Braxton's⁽³⁾ life, it is now the county seat of Cheatum County. Benjamin⁽²⁾ and Mary Lee settled in the city of Franklin, Tennessee in Williamson County where history books note that Benjamin Lee was a successful farmer with several yoke of oxen for plowing. This was noteworthy because most folks depended on livestock for income rather than tilling the ground. Benjamin⁽²⁾ died in 1805 and willed his 640 acres in Ashland City to his nephews Braxton⁽³⁾ and John⁽³⁾ Lee.

John⁽³⁾ Lee and Jane Tuggle raised eleven children in the Cheatum County area. Their oldest son Henry Tuggle Lee⁽⁴⁾ survived the Battle of New Orleans to marry Rachel Simmons in 1817 and later (1828) Jane Sanders of Robertson County, Tennessee. In 1838 He and Jane along with six children moved to Williamson County, Illinois where they raised an even larger family (twelve children, two of which were from Rachel his first wife). There are many descendants still living in this area today and since 1923 this family has gathered at an annual Grant-Lee Reunion held at Shawneetown, Illinois.

Another son of the John⁽³⁾ Lee family, James M. Lee was a lawyer, justice of the peace, and leading citezin of Ashland City for many years, with several descendants.

Braxton⁽³⁾ Lee and Annie had eight children. Along with Polly⁽⁴⁾, Judith⁽⁴⁾, Sally⁽⁴⁾ and Benjamin⁽⁴⁾, who came with them from Virginia, were born Polly R. (1797), George Seaton⁽⁴⁾ (1800), Anna P.⁽⁴⁾ (1802), Susanna⁽⁴⁾ (1804) and William Burrell⁽⁴⁾ (1806). Annie died shortly after Burrell⁽⁴⁾ was born sometime in 1807.

An unusual event happened on May 28th, 1808. Braxton⁽³⁾ Lee and Polly Hunter were married in a double wedding that included Braxton's daughter Judith, and Polly Hunter's son Emanuel Hunter. Father and daughter married mother and son! This marriage produced two more children for Braxton,⁽³⁾ Stephen⁽⁴⁾ (July 1, 1811) and daughter Keven⁽⁴⁾ (November 4, 1826).

Robert Heaton also settled alongside the Lee families in 1796. The association between these families, especially Braxton's, is noticeable throughout their lifetime. In 1809 Robert Heaton wrote in his diary, "August the 22, 1809 was the first time that Robert Heaton stood on the stage to endeavour to preach the gospel and to spread the tidings of salvation." This diary records the organization of several churches in the area, one of which (Zion Church) was located on Braxton Lee⁽³⁾ farm. Also recorded, in the diary, are the baptisms of many members of the Lee family and many other familiar names in the community. In 1822 Brother Heaton reported 114 members in good standing. In 1836 Braxton⁽³⁾ donated this property to the church along with what is now the Forest Hills Cemetary in Ashland City, Tennessee. Braxton's religion was no doubtably inspired by the Reverend William Douglas during his early childhood days in Virginia. Braxton⁽³⁾ Lee held many public positions for Davidson County and died on April 8th 1841 and is buried alongside eight other unmarked graves on the roadside of Hibiscus Drive in Ashland City, Tennessee.

Braxton
Old Lee Cemetary
↓

JAMES B. HALLUMS
COUNTY HISTORIAN CHEATHAM COUNTY
106 Smith Street
Ashland City, Tenn. 37015
Page 4

Braxton's⁽³⁾ descendants have continued the western migration of our country. Daughter Judith⁽⁴⁾ and Emanuel Hunter moved to Williamson Co., Illinois and raised a family among other Lee relatives. One Son, Burrell, moved to Arkansas. Documents of the 1840's show relatives in Limestone Co., Texas. Other children and grandchildren settled around Middle Tennessee in Davidson, Dickson, Montgomery and Robertson Counties.

Stephen⁽⁴⁾ Lee, the first child of Braxton and Polly (Hunter) Lee, married Maria Peebles. Maria was the daughter of Cordy and Elizabeth (Campbell) Peebles. The Peebles were members of the Zion Church and neighbors of the Lees. Stephen and Maria had two children; Richard Peebles⁽⁵⁾ Lee and Mary Elizabeth⁽⁵⁾ Lee. Maria died in 1835 at twenty-five years of age and is buried in the Forest Hills Cemetary at Ashland City, Tennessee. Stephen married Mary Weakley of Montgomery Co., Tennessee in September of 1836. Stephen and Mary lived close to her parents, Thomas and Fredonia Prudence Weakley on McAdoo Creek. Stephen was a blacksmith and was also involved in farming and hauling the mail. A map of the 15th district of Montgomery Co. shows the Grantville Post Office and a blacksmith shop adjoining the Weakley property. Three daughters were born to Stephen and Mary; Elizabeth Prudence, Fredonia Jennifer, and Nancy Angeline. Mary(Weakley) Lee died ca 1859 just before the start of the Civil War period. Stephen married for the third time in 1862 to Edith Toler, of Clarksville. The census of 1870 shows Stephen's occupation as a shoemaker, although I think it refers to horseshoes. I did not find Stephen in the 1880 census anywhere in the state, nor have I found a will or any document concerning his death. I suppose he died ca 1872-1880 in the Clarksville area.

Richard Peebles⁽⁵⁾ Lee remained in the Ashland City area when Stephen⁽⁴⁾ moved to Grantville. Records show Richard in the household of Cordy Peebles, his grandfather, in the 1850 census. He married Angeline Binkley in 1856. Angeline was a descendant of James Binkley the founder of Sycamore Mills. Richard and Angeline lived in Ashland City until buying a farm on Bull Run Creek in 1865. They had seven children; John Joseph⁽⁶⁾, J.R. (James Richard?), Will, Mary, Mattie, Robert Edward and Levington L. Lee. Angeline died

ca 1872, possibly when Levington was born. Richard,⁽⁵⁾ a widower with five small children still at home, married Lavonna Emily York, of Robertson Co., Tennessee, in July of 1874. Richard sold the farm at Bull Run and purchased one just east of Pleasant View, just inside the Robertson Co. line. There Richard and Emily had three children of their own; Icee, Olvin and Maria.⁽⁶⁾

Richard's oldest son John J.⁽⁶⁾ Lee married Ivoni Carney in November of 1877. They had one son, Irah before her early death. John remarried Nancy Jane Woodson (McDaniel), a widow herself, in October 1888. They had three children; George,⁽⁷⁾ Bertie and Herbert Turner Lee. John and Nancy Jane were known as Pap and Granny to their descendants, many of whom still live in the Middle Tennessee area, today. John and Nancy Jane lived and farmed in the Thomasville/Chapsmansboro communities of Cheatum Co., Tennessee all their lives. John died in 1936 and is buried at Mallory's Church. Nancy Jane died in Detroit, Michigan while staying with her son, George, in 1948. She was buried there.

JAMES B. HALLUMS
COUNTY HISTORIAN CHEATHAM COUNTY
106 Smith Street
Ashland City, Tenn. 37015

Lawrence Lee Hunter
307 Main Street
Carterville, IL 62918
618 985-6686

Richard H. Hunter, Trustee
The Jacob Hunter Trust
10202 Briggs Road
Marion, IL 62959

August 18, 2009

RE: Burial site of Jacob and Mary (Polly) Dancer Hunter

Dear Richard,

This letter will document what I have communicated to the Jacob Hunter Trust about the burial location of Revolutionary War soldier Jacob Hunter (b. circa 1755, d. 1806) and his wife Mary "Polly" Dancer (b. 1770, d. 1842-1850).

Alice Grant told me the location where Jacob and Polly were buried in Ashland City TN many years ago. She had visited the cemetery along with Anthony J. Lee of Old Hickory TN. A.J. Lee showed Alice the location of the graves and said he remembered seeing the headstones as a child. He had visited that site with his family who was related to both Braxton Lee and Jacob Hunter.

In the late 1950s or early 1960s Lettie and I visited with A.J. Lee and his wife. They took us to the Old Lee Cemetery at 104 Hibiscus Drive in Ashland City and A.J. pointed out where the graves were located. This was the same location that James "Bud" Hallums took you in 1999 and where you, I, and Thomas Hunter visited in January 2008.

My grandfather, L.Z. Hunter (b. 1871, d. 1948) related to me that Jacob and Polly were buried with Braxton Lee and his wife Annie Lee in Tennessee. In addition, Belva Hunter Hall (b. 12-4-1899, d. 5-7-1987) told many people that her great great grandfathers, Jacob Hunter and Braxton Lee, were buried together in a small cemetery near Ashland City Tennessee on the north side of the Cumberland River.

I have no doubt, based upon several accounts by both Hunter and Lee family historians that Jacob Hunter, Mary "Polly" Dancer Hunter Lee, Braxton Lee, and his first wife Elizabeth Anne Hatcher Lee are all buried in the family cemetery located at 104 Hibiscus Drive, Ashland City Tennessee.


Lawrence Lee Hunter

FROM: *The Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter*, 9(1), 2000 p. 4-5.

Burial Place of Jacob Hunter, Mary (Polly) Dancer Hunter Lee, Braxton Lee and Elizabeth Ann Hatcher Located

In June 1999 I (Richard Hunter) traveled to Ashland City, TN in an attempt to locate the burial place of Jacob Hunter, his wife Mary (Polly), Braxton Lee, and his first wife Elizabeth Ann Hatcher. In 1980 Lawrence Lee Hunter corresponded with Anthony J. Lee of Old Hickory, TN who informed him that Braxton Lee, his wife, and Jacob Hunter and his wife Polly were all buried together at the location of Braxton Lee's home place in Ashland City, TN. Lawrence's grandfather L.Z. Hunter (b. 1871, d. 1948) told Lawrence that Jacob Hunter and his wife Polly were buried along with Braxton Lee. Belva Hunter Hall (b. 12/4/1899, d. 5/7/1987) also stated in years past that Jacob and Polly Hunter were buried along with Braxton Lee. In 1981 Mr. Lee took Lawrence Hunter to the location in Ashland City. In 1999 I met with Mr. James "Bud" Hallums of Ashland City to inquire about Lee and Hunter history. Mr. Hallums is the County Historian of Cheatham County and has records concerning early settlers. Mr. Hallums took me to the location where Braxton Lee was buried. Mr. Hallums said he remembered as a young boy seeing two grave stones at that location, and he believed they were the markers for the graves of Braxton Lee and his wife. Mr. Hallums said that he believes the stones were pushed into the road bed to serve as a foundation for the road when Hibiscus Street was built. Mr. Hallums stated that Braxton Lee donated the land for Forest Cemetery in Ashland City, but Braxton was not buried there. Braxton L. Hunter, son of Manuel and Judith Lee Hunter, (grandson of Braxton Lee and Jacob Hunter) was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery in 1837. Mr. Hallums stated it was very likely that Jacob Hunter and his wife Mary (Polly), who after Jacob's death became Braxton's second wife, were all buried together on Braxton's home place since it was known that the families were close.

The location where Braxton, Jacob, Mary (Polly), and Elizabeth Hatcher Lee (Braxton's first wife) are buried is now identified as 104 Hibiscus Street, Ashland City. A small white house sits on the lot and the graves are believed to be in the front yard, between the house and the street.

FROM: *The Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter*, 11(1), 2002 p. 1-2.

Braxton Lee & Jacob Hunter-1 Burial Site, Lee Homestead Cemetery, Ashland City, TN

In August, 2001 Lettie Hunter of Cartersville corresponded with Mrs. Josephine McMahan, a volunteer at the Cheatham County Historical & Genealogical Association, 233 N. Vine Street, Ashland City, TN 37015. Mrs. McMahan sent a record she found of the old Lee Cemetery in Ashland City. The record was copied by Edna Hunter (wife of H.D. Hunter) and later published in The Historical Records Survey, June 27, 1939, Division of Women's and Professional Projects. The record copied by Edna Hunter has been retyped below.

Cheatham County

Tombstone—Inscriptions Lee Cemetery

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**Copied by Edna Hunter, Ashland City, Tennessee
October 1, 1937**

**Baxton Lee
Born 1763 [1766]*
Died 1811 [1841]***

**Annie Lee
Born 1759 [1768]*
Died 1807**

***Bracketed information added by RHH to correct dates**

Mrs. McMahan wrote to Lettie, "This cemetery was destroyed when Hibiscus Drive and its houses were built. What a shame. Braxton Lee was one of our earliest settlers as well as politician. The rock markers were pushed off in a deep gully. Hibiscus is on a hill overlooking Marrowbone Creek (now part of Cheatham Lake)."

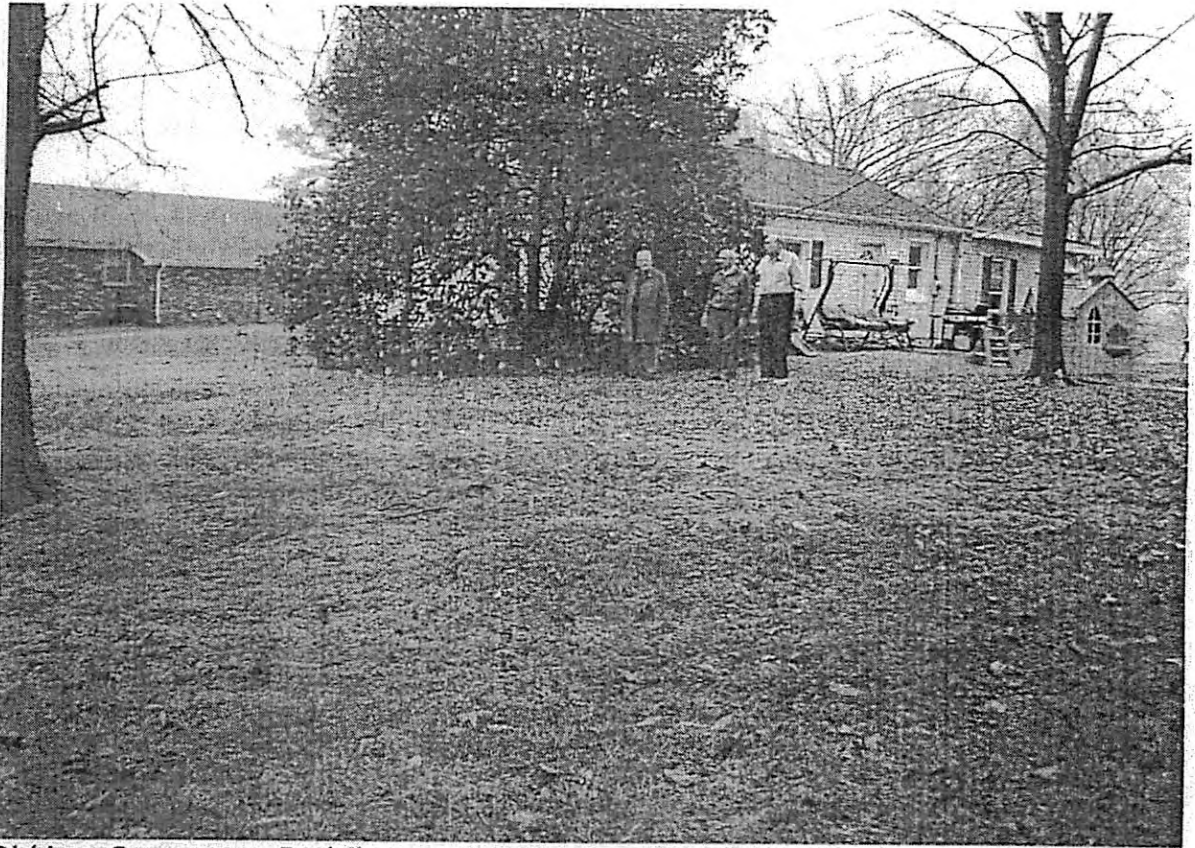
What Mrs. McMahan told Lettie about the cemetery was what I (Richard Hunter) was told by Mr. James B. (Bud) Hallums of Ashland City in June 1999. Mr. Hallums reported that he remembered seeing the stones as a young boy, but when the road was built the headstones were pushed into the road bed and covered over. Mr. Hallums indicated there were several graves, but he only remembered seeing two headstones. The address of the present home where the old Lee Cemetery was located is 104 Hibiscus Street, Ashland City, TN. According to Mr. Hallums, the old Lee Cemetery was between the house and Hibiscus Street, which would be the front yard of the house.

This property is now being purchased by Bradley D. Ferrell, from his grandmother Elizabeth Ferrell. In October 2001, I (RHH) had the opportunity to visit with Bradley Ferrell and his wife and inform them of the burials in their yard.

FROM: *The Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter*, 17(1), 2008 p. 12-13.

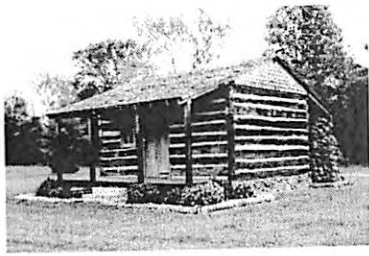
The Old Lee Cemetery

During our visit to Ashland City on January 10, 2008 we (Rich Hunter, Lawrence Lee Hunter, Tom Hunter, and Murry Hawkins) had the opportunity to survey the yard at 104 Hibiscus Drive where the Old Lee Cemetery is located. This is where Jacob Hunter, namesake of the Jacob Hunter Trust, is buried, along with Braxton Lee, Elizabeth Ann Hatcher Lee, and Mary Polly Dancer Hunter Lee. We located 9 adult graves and one child/baby grave.



Old Lee Cemetery. Red flags outline the location of graves. Standing in background are Lawrence Lee Hunter, Thomas Hunter, and Murry Hawkins.

In talking with the present owners, we learned that they are planning to sell this property in the next 2 to 3 years. The brick building to the east is an apartment complex. We are concerned that a developer might purchase this property and build additional apartments, thereby destroying this historic cemetery. The Jacob Hunter Trust is interested in ideas people have that would allow us to purchase this property, add a fence around the cemetery,



The Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter



Volume 19, No. 1 Richard H. Hunter, Editor January 2010

Braxton Lee Cemetery Surveyed

Several important steps were taken in 2009 to identify, record, and preserve the Braxton Lee Cemetery at 104 Hibiscus Drive in Ashland City, TN. For years, this historic cemetery was referred to as the "Old Lee Cemetery." As we were taking steps to have the cemetery surveyed and recorded, it was recommended that we name the cemetery, the Braxton Lee Cemetery, since Braxton was buried there, and the family plot was located on Braxton's property. Further, there are several other Lee family cemeteries in Middle TN and most of them are "old."

For the last several years, Bradley and Monica Ferrell owned the property surrounding the cemetery. In late August we received word that the Ferrell's had to sell the property quickly and the property would be auctioned on September 5th. Rich Hunter, David Lee, Duane Elliott, and attorney Cleo Hogan were in the process of assembling records that established proof of the cemetery and preparing to have those documents recorded to insure that future buyers would be aware that the cemetery was located on the property.

David Lee called the realtor auctioning the property to request that a notice be provided at the sale so bidders would know the cemetery was there and of their obligation to protect it. The realtor stated that he was under no obligation to provide notice at the auction.

Attorney Cleo Hogan, David Lee, Rich Hunter, and Duane Elliott prepared a legal notice that David filed at the Cheatham County Register's Office on September 3rd. On Sept 5th, David Lee, Debbie Buchanan, Susie Hawkins, and Brian Lord (David's son-in-law) attended the auction and distributed copies of the notice to buyers.

Earl Guy Greco purchased the property for \$ 47,850. On October 2, Greco sold the property to William and Paula Paty for \$ 73,500. The deed transferring the property listed the "graveyard" and referenced the legal notice David Lee filed at the County Register's Office. This legal reference should accompany any future sale of that property.

On October 12 & 13, Rich Hunter, David Lee, and Duane Elliott spent several hours at the Braxton Lee Cemetery locating and marking 22 graves. On October 23 Wright & Associates surveyed and provided a legal description for the cemetery. A copy of the boundary survey for the Braxton Lee Cemetery follows.

The Jacob Hunter Trust
Phone: 618 997-1044

10202 Briggs Road

Marion, IL 62959-5844

e-mail: rich@clinicaloutcomes.us

Newsletter on the web: <http://www.mindspring.com/~hunter-family/JHTNewsletter/index.htm>

GENERAL NOTES:

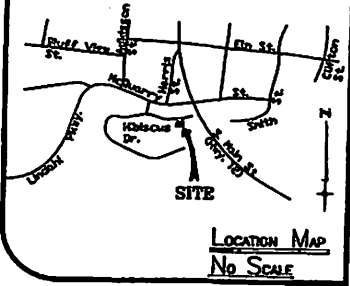
- 1) Bearings are based on Tennessee State Plane Coordinate System, Grid North.
- 2) This surveyor has not physically located the underground utilities. Above grade and underground utilities shown were taken from visible appurtenances at the site, public records and/or maps prepared by others. The surveyor makes no guarantee that the underground utilities shown comprise all such utilities in the area, either in service or abandoned. The surveyor further does not warrant that the underground utilities shown are in the exact location indicated. In Tennessee it is a requirement, per "The Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act," that anyone who engages in excavation must notify all known underground utility owners, no less than (3) three nor more than (10) ten working days prior to the date of their intent to excavate and also to avoid any possible hazard or conflict. Tennessee One Call 1-615-366-1987 or 1-800-331-1111.
- 3) Subject property is shown as a portion of Parcel 017.02 on Cheatham County Tax Map no. 055K, Group F.
- 4) I.R.(old) shown hereon is a nail with washer

T.S.P.C.
Tennessee State Plane Coordinate

- 1 North: 704537.78 Ft. - East: 1656252.89 Ft.
- 2 North: 704485.28 Ft. - East: 1656194.22 Ft.

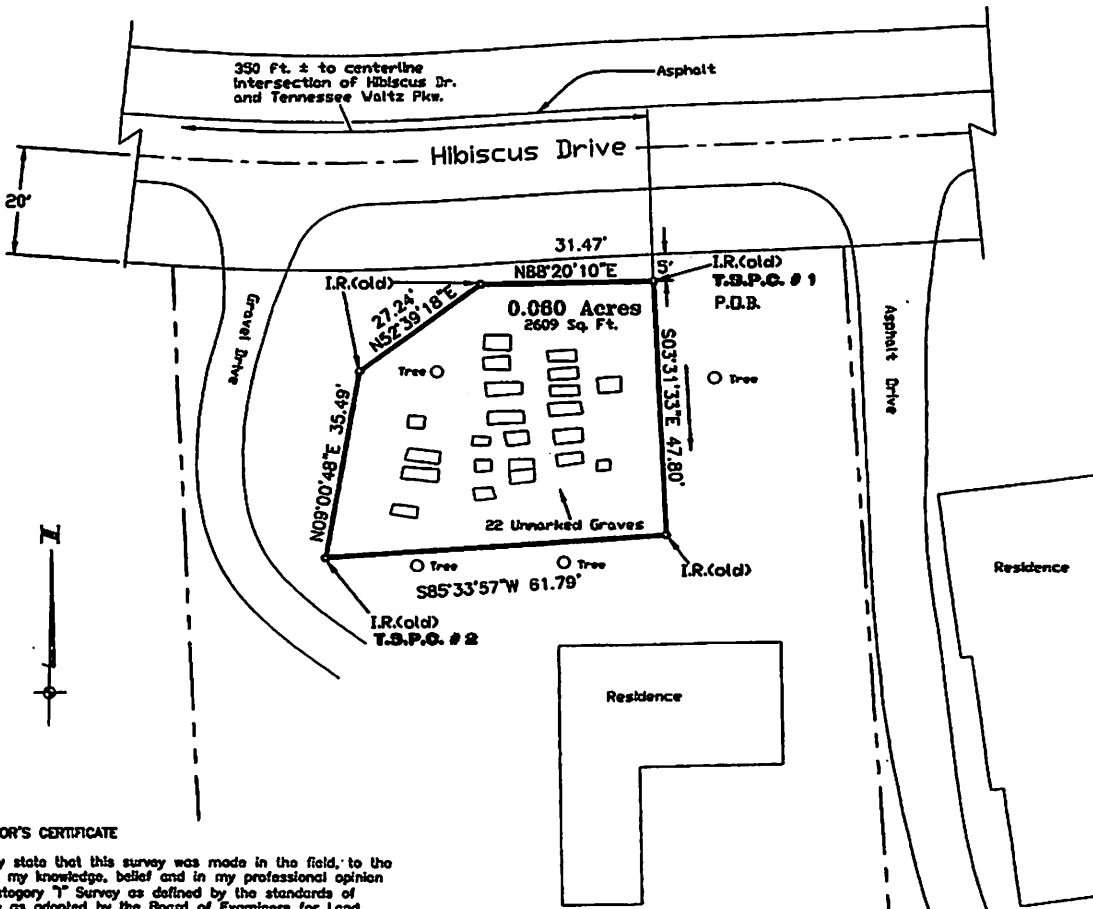
Corresponding Geodetic Coordinates

- 1 36° 15' 51.0810" North Latitude
87° 03' 32.9344" West Longitude
- 2 36° 15' 50.5356" North Latitude
87° 03' 33.6438" West Longitude



Property Title Reference

Located on the property conveyed to William O'Dell & Paula Rae Paty by Deed of Record in Book 333 Page 742, R.O.C.C., Tn.



SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby state that this survey was made in the field, to the best of my knowledge, belief and in my professional opinion is a Category "1" Survey as defined by the standards of practice as adopted by the Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors on January 4, 1992; and the ratio of precision of the unadjusted survey is greater than 1:10,000.

Marvin T. Wright

By: *Marvin T. Wright*

Registered Land Surveyor No. 2094 - Dated: Oct. 23, 2009

LEGEND

- Property Corner/Iron Rod
- Subject Property Lines
- - - Center Line
- Miscellaneous Layout Lines
- Non Surveyed Property Lines

AREA			
SQUARE FEET = 2609			
ACREAGE = 0.060			
REVISIONS			
NO.	DATE	BY	CHANGE



Boundary Survey For
BRAXTON LEE CEMETERY

1st. Civil District Cheatham County
Ashland City, Tennessee

SCALE 1" = 20'

WRIGHT & ASSOCIATES
LAND SURVEYING
1329 HWY. 12 N. - ASHLAND CITY, TENNESSEE
WK-615-238-4125 - HBL-615-792-4291

JOB NO. 55K17.0209
SHEET NO. 1 OF 1

DRAWN BY: MTW DATED: Oct. 23, 2009 APPROVED BY:

Wright & Associates

Land Surveyors

1329 Hwy. 12 N. - Ashland City, Tn. 37015

Wk.-615-238-4123 - Hm.- 615-792-4291

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

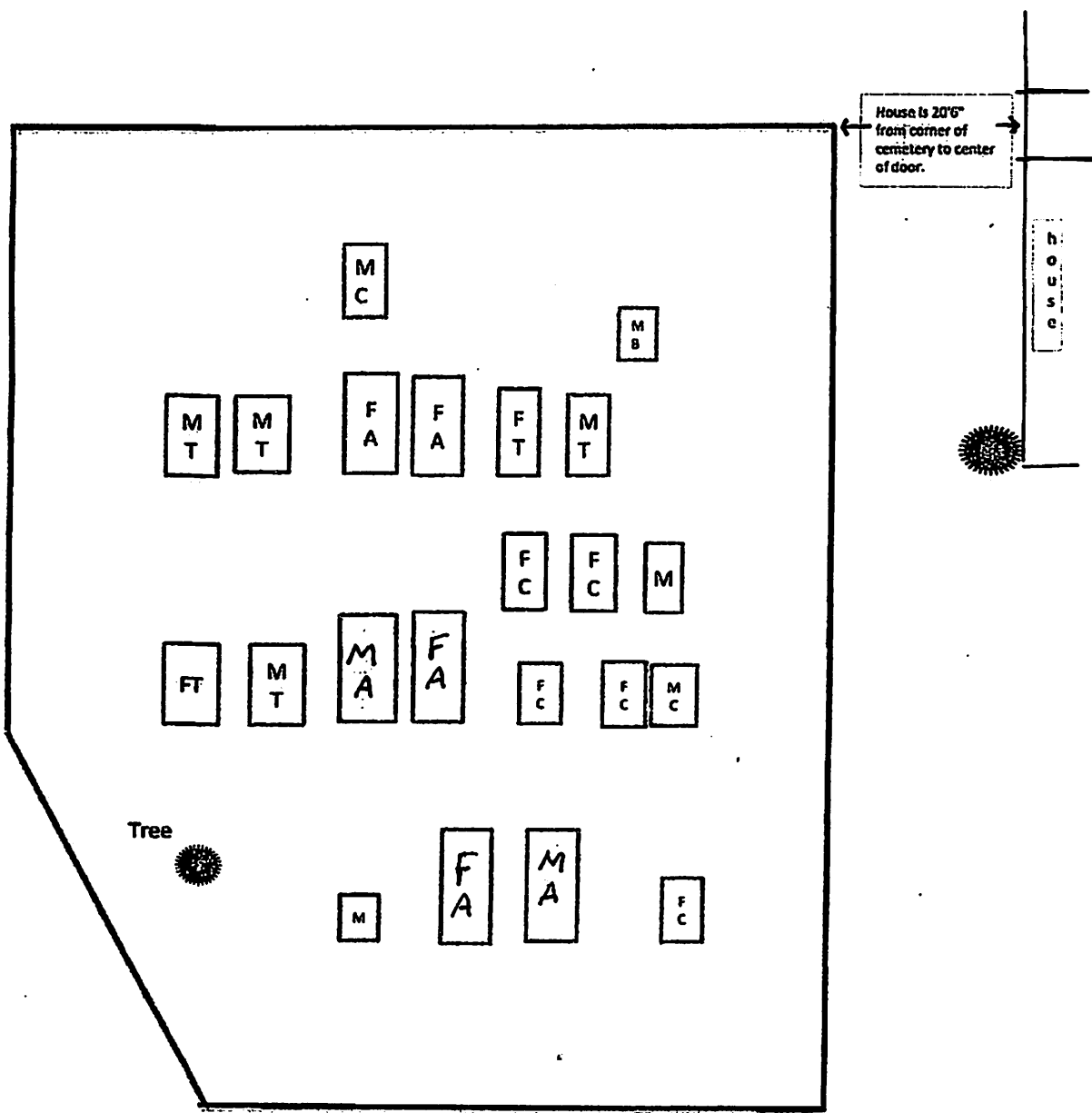
BRAXTON LEE CEMETERY

Oct. 23, 2009

A tract of land (a Cemetery) in the 1st Civil District of Cheatham County, Tennessee being a portion of Parcel 017.02 of Map no. 055K – Group F of the Property Assessor's Office of Cheatham County Tennessee, the land conveyed to William O'Dell Paty and wife Paula Rae Paty as recorded in Record Book 333 - Page 742 of the Registers Office of Cheatham Co., Tennessee.

Beginning at an Iron Rod (new), a nail with washer, 25 ft. from and perpendicular to the centerline, 5 ft. south of the south margin of Hibiscus Drive, this point being 704 ft. ± south and east along the centerline from the centerline intersection of Tennessee Waltz Parkway and Hibiscus Dr. and being the northeast corner of tract herein described and having a Tennessee State Plane Coordinate of North: 704537.78 ft. - East: 1656252.89 ft. with a corresponding Geodetic Coordinate of 36° 15' 51.0610" North Latitude - 87° 03' 32.9344" West Longitude and proceeding;

- 1) S03°31'33"E - 47.80 ft. to a nail with washer, thence;
- 2) S85°33'57"W - 61.79 ft. to a nail with washer, having a Tennessee State Plane Coordinate of North: 704485.29 ft. - East: 1656194.22 ft. with a corresponding Geodetic Coordinate of 36° 15' 50.5356" North Latitude - 87° 03' 33.6438" West Longitude thence;
- 3) N09°00'48"E - 35.49 ft. to a nail with washer, thence;
- 4) N52°39'18"E - 27.24 ft. to a nail with washer, thence;
- 5) N88°20'10"E - 31.47 ft. to the Point of Beginning containing 0.060 Acres more or less according to a survey by Marvin T. Wright R.L.S. # 2094 of Tennessee.



WATER MAIN