

GREENE, HAZEL B.

CEMETERIES--CHOCTAW #6474

ROSE HILL

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Today, June 29, 1937, this field worker drove out to the much talked of Rose Hill, the home of the full-blood Choctaw Indian, Robert M. Jones. We approached a clearing with an almost fallen down boxed farm house in it. An iron pump was in the front yard of it, and there were two of the famous old pots so much talked of. It is a fact that one of them will possibly hold three hundred gallons, maybe more; the other one probably thirty. They have flared rims. I saw no legs to them and they are being used to water stock out of.

Around this clearing are dozens of fine cedar trees, some of them loaded with blue berries. The old driveway, or at least the walk from the front of the house, is outlined with immense cedars. There are only mounds of dirt and a few rocks to show where the four chimneys stood, two of which were supposed to be of the stack or double variety. No sign of the old house which Ralph McBade, the man who lives there, said burned one Christmas night following a dance in the house that night, in about 1911 or 1912.

W. P. A. workers are there constructing a stone wall around the Robert M. Jones cemetery. This work is being sponsored by the State Historical Society of Oklahoma. The wall averages five feet in height, is eighteen inches wide, topped by cement rounded covering, reinforced with steel. The wall is built of native stone, cemented together.

Some of the stones came from the old chimneys and foundation of the old house, others were hauled from Rattan, twenty-five miles away. There are one hundred and thirty-two yards of rock. The circular plot is about one hundred feet in diameter and about three hundred and thirty-six feet in circumference. There are slight elevations, or pillars, twenty and a half feet apart. It took approximately four hundred and twenty-five sacks of cement, ninety six pounds to the sack, to make these pillars. The wall is not in a perfect circle-it is irregular to go around the group of fine old Japanese Shumake or Sumac trees and giant cedars standing there, shading the ten or maybe more graves.

The workmen said they could be certain that there are ten graves there, but there might possibly be more. They had instructions not to clear them of the evergreen vine that trails over them all like a green carpet. Three of them are unmarked. The first one, a box like tomb covering grave, says simply:

CALEB M. EARLES.

died

December 8, 1872.

Aged, 75 years.

This ^{is} surrounded by about twenty-four inch iron fence. No gate.

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Next is a grave with a part of a marble upright slab at head and feet, but no inscription on either one. The workmen took them up to see.

Next is the tall marble square tapered monument, seven feet eight inches tall, marking the grave of Robert M. Jones, himself, despite the fact that Mrs. Maude Carter of Goodland told me on June 15th that Robert Jones was killed and buried at the Randell farm and buried in the garden and without a tombstone. I think she must have meant Dr. Bailey. She was a child of ten when she went to Rose Hill, and it is easy to understand how a child might have been mistaken. She spoke, too, of the monuments in this cemetery looking like sentinels at night in the moonlight. If there were ever more than one, they are gone now. The balance of them are flat marble box-like and table-like slabs. She said, too, that the stairway in the hall ^{was} of marble. Mrs. Samples who lived there in 1897 said there was no marble there and W. W. Biard of Hugo, who lived in the house from 1900 to 1910, says the stairs were not of marble.

W. W. Biard says, though, that the walk from the front steps to the gate leading into the deer park, was composed of broken pieces of marble. But that there was no marble stairway. Mrs. Maude Carter lived in the house

four years beginning in 1886, ten years prior to when Mrs. Samples lived there and nearly fifteen prior to when Biard lived there. Perhaps the marble pieces in the walk were from that staircase and perhaps the marble had been so placed on the staircase that when it was removed that it did not tear down the stairway. She was positive, and I do not doubt her veracity. I saw pieces of marble walk here in town that were supposed to have come from Rose Hill.

The iron gate in this wall that surrounds the Jones cemetery is flanked by two feet square pillars, four feet apart, and six feet high. The iron gate is five and a half feet high. On one pillar is a plaque, inscribed: U. S. A. 1936-1937. W. P. A. A memorial niche is left on the east side of the gate in which the Historical Society of Oklahoma may place a "cornerstone". At another place is the number of the Project, No. 1565-8016 W. P. A.

There are eleven big sumac trees and nine big cedars inside this enclosure. Visitors have carved their initials on some of them.

There are graves of three children, born in 1864, 1866, and 1867, respectively. One over nine months old, the others ten and thirteen days old, evidently the children of Robert M. Jones and his second wife, because his first (Indian) wife died in 1860. These are all in one enclosure. Evidently, too,

the Randell children were grandchildren of the first Mrs. Jones because the boy was sixteen years old in 1897, and the girl was fourteen.

This morning, in a talk with Lem W. Oakes, 80-year-old pioneer Choctaw Indian who was reared down near Goodwater, he said that he was personally acquainted with Robert M. Jones of Rose Hill and that Jones was almost a full-blood Choctaw Indian, about as near as possible not to be one.

Mr. Oakes went on to say that Jones' first wife was a Choctaw Indian but he did not know just how much; but Jones' second and last wife was a white woman who married a Dr. Bailey after Robert Jones died. Then, in an argument over a hundred bales of cotton down at the Lake West farm, Robert Love, a grandson of Jones, and Robert Jones, a son of Mrs. Bailey by Robert Jones, killed Dr. Bailey and Dr. Bailey is buried at the Randell farm.

Lem Oakes is undoubtedly a very good authority on the history of this locality.

In a talk with R. L. Cook this morning; he told me that he has been leasing the Rose Hill farm for thirty years from J. H. Randell, of Dennison, Texas, who is guardian for Robert Randell's daughter who is an incompetent, and who has never married. That is R. L. Cook's story. He says, too, that that place was this girl's allotment. She is part Indian.

Rose Hill Cemetery
Four miles southeast of
Hugo, Oklahoma.

SACRED TO
THE MEMORY OF

George W. Jones.

The beloved son of

Robert and Susan Jones.

Born the 16th of April, 1840.

And departed this life, on the,

21st of August, 1845.

It is a consolation to his bereaved parents
who believe that in the innocence of infancy, his
soul rests in the regions of the bliss.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF

SUSAN.

The beloved wife of

Robert M. Jones,

Who departed this life,

January 13, 1860.

In the 50th, year of her age.

On the gate it says: Death has bereft us of the
presence, but cannot take
fond remembrance.

Marble slab, flat on marble legs, twenty inches high.
like table legs, six or eight inches in diameter.
Rounded and ridged around, like table legs. Iron
fence, four feet eight inches high, huge iron knobs
on fence and gate. All grown over with moss.



IN MEMORY OF

ROBERT M. JONES

Born October 1, 1808.

Died February 22, 1873.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright,
for the end of that man is peace.

Surrounded by an Iron fence three and a half feet high.
The marble slab is on marble legs, like a table. Cov-
ers grave. A marble slab in addition to the seven foot,
eight inch monument.

CALEB M. EARLES.

died

December 8, 1872.

Aged, 75 years.

BOX-like moss covered tombstone covers grave, surrounded
by iron fence about two feet high and no gate.

Inside a three-foot high iron fence with a gate are three graves, all covered with marble slabs, laid on foundations of marble, making them box-like. Each grave under a separate slab.

The first was,

In memory of

Henry E. Jones,

Born July 21, 1864,

Died July 31, 1864,

10 days' old.

The second was,

In memory of

Jimmie Jones,

Born March 22, 1866,

Died November 5, 1866.

The third was,

In memory of

Frank Jones,

Born Aug. 12, 1867,

Died Aug. 25, 1867.

Evergreens completely cover all the graves. They had to be brushed aside to be able to read the epitaphs. Eight feet from the foot of George is a grave with a limestone head marker. Small stone at foot. No inscription.