



Pearl Webb Cemetery Newsletter

Designed by Paul Sullivan

Volume II

Issue II

Spring 2006

History & Facts

By: June Burks

Did you know there are several early doctors of the area buried in Pearl Webb Cemetery? We will spotlight some of the history of **William Irving Adair, M.D.** in this newsletter.

Dr. Adair was a highly respected and successful doctor in Canmer and the surrounding area in the mid to late 1800's. He came from a very illustrious family. His great uncle, John Adair, was Governor of Kentucky from 1820-1824. His brother, Andrew Monroe Adair of Munfordville, was once a Commonwealth Attorney of the district. Another brother, Col. John Alexander Adair was a confederate soldier during the Civil War.



William Irving Adair, M.D.
Photo courtesy of Danny Adair

Dr. Will Adair's father, Alexander Adair, was born in South Carolina in 1793 and as a young man moved to Barren County, Kentucky. This was during a period when many of the pioneers were moving to Kentucky from South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and elsewhere. Here he met Elizabeth Monroe who would become his bride on 01/15/1815. (She had moved here with her family from Virginia). Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Adair soon started their family of six children.

William Irving Adair would be their first-born, arriving on 12/09/1815. He soon acquired a good education, moved to Hart County, and married Elvira Bowling in 1849. She was 15 years his junior being born 08/17/1830. He purchased a farm of some 50 acres north of Canmer on the Jackson Highway. The farm was on a hill high above Green River with a wonderful spring behind the house. This spring furnished an ample supply of water for the household, and flowed downhill into Green River. It was here on their Green River country farm Dr.

Adair lived, reared a family of three children and built his medical practice. (Their children were Alexander M. Adair, born 1850; William Bowling Adair, born 1852; and Mary Eliza Adair, born 1854). The house was a beautiful two-story house believed built by Mr. Rufus Lane, who in later years lived in it. (This farm is now owned by and is home to Larry and Martha Rogers).

Dr. Adair was instrumental in helping organize the first Hart County Medical Association. Dr. Adair and Dr. C.J. Walton met in Dr. Walton's office in Munfordville on 10/07/1872 to discuss the formation of a medical association. It was decided that there would be another meeting on 10/16/1872 and all the doctors of Hart County would be invited. This meeting was very successful with many of the Hart County doctors in attendance. Dr. Will Adair was elected the first secretary. This association was active for many years.

Dr. Adair practiced as all country doctors did during



this period - going by way of horse and buggy or riding horseback to visit his patients. Many of the male children he delivered were named for him, Dr. David Adair Weldon of Canmer being one of them. Dr. Adair was a compassionate soul as evidenced by a story (shared by Larry Rogers) of Dr. Adair getting his great grandfather, William Col Rogers, out of an orphans' home and rearing him. Mr. Col became a blacksmith in the early days of Canmer.

Mrs. Adair preceded Dr. Adair in death. She passed away at 61 on 12/20/1892. He passed away at the age of 81 on 09/17/1896. Both are interred in Pearl Webb Cemetery. Several of the relatives and descendants of this Adair family remained in the Canmer community for many years, including Col. John's son Chester, who owned a farm near Canmer and his sons John O. Adair and Marion Adair and their families, who also remained in the Canmer community for many years.



Hart County Medical Association at Memorial Consolidated School, 1921. Photo courtesy of Hart County Historical Museum.

From the Treasurer's Book

By: Brenda Dudderar

At the annual meeting of the Pearl Webb Cemetery, those attending voted to sell lots in the old roads that are not used anymore. They will be sold on a first come basis. If your family plot joins a road and you are interested in purchasing lots there, please notify one of the trustees. The lots in the cemetery are now selling for \$150.00 each. Also, if anyone has lots in the cemetery that they know will never be used, it would be nice to donate them to the cemetery.

It was suggested at the annual meeting that flower arrangement need to be labeled, if possible. The arrangements blow off of the

stones and we have no idea to which stone they belong. If you could write your name on the bottom of the Styrofoam, we will do our best to return your flowers to the correct stone. Otherwise, if they are on the ground they are thrown away, so the mowers can mow.

We will once again be at the cemetery Friday through Monday of Memorial Day weekend collecting donations. If anyone would like to help, by donating their time at the donation table, it would be greatly appreciated. It is fun to meet so many nice people from so many different locations. You learn so many facts about Canmer and the past.

Due to your wonderful generosity, we had a prosperous year. We actually collected enough donations to meet our expenses. For the first time, since I became treasurer, we did not have to take any money out of our savings account.

I hope you will each get a chance to visit the cemetery this year and realize how



much hard work has been done there. If you missed the dogwood in bloom, you missed a beautiful site. We were so fortunate to have Mr. Jeff Callahan and Mr. James Easton Chaney work so diligently to make Pearl Webb Cemetery one of the most beautiful in our county.



Pearl Webb Cemetery in Full Bloom
Photo provided by: Paul Sullivan

Reader's Comments

By: Larry Rogers

Our last newsletter containing, "History & Facts," as to how Pearl Webb Cemetery was named, drew some additional information from my cousin, John Paul Grady. Mr. Grady adds, "Ira N. Webb and his wife Mary M., moved to the Rio community shortly after their marriage. He, Ira, was reared in Grayson County, where his father Harvey Webb was a tailor. Mr. Webb worked at the grist mill at or near Powder Mills. Little Pearl was one of five children born

to the Webb's. They later moved to Hardin County, near the Colesburg community.

Thank you John for your comments. Our comments from readers has been very complimentary and encouraging.

From the Secretary's Desk

By: Peggy Sue Moss-Logsdon

We are still busy working on the website for the cemetery. It is taking much longer than we had planned. In the last year, we have had the following loved ones buried at Pearl Webb:

- Andrew Romines
- Ann Carter
- Amy Borders
- Marcel Atwell
- Sammy Louis Buckner
- Louis Sidebottom
- Charlotte Devore
- L.B. Kelly
- Lora Buckner Holt
- Grace Weller

At our March meeting it was decided to again have workers on Memorial Day weekend to take up money for the upkeep of the cemetery. There will be someone there all four days of

the holiday weekend. You may make your check payable to Pearl Webb Cemetery.

This year we will be honoring our veterans by putting flags by "ALL" (100) veterans buried at Pearl Webb Cemetery. Archie Hay and Roy Avery donated these flags. If you have a family member that is a veteran and you do not have the veteran plaque on their grave, you can get one at no cost by contacting the Veteran's Administration.



Pearl Webb Cemetery Board

- Larry Jagers, President
- Brenda Dudderar, Treasurer
- Peggy Sue Moss-Logsdon, Secretary
- James E. Chaney
- Paul Sullivan
- Jean Hedgepeth
- Wyonia Devore
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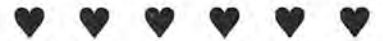
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Anyone desiring to contribute to the cemetery can do so by sending your tax deductible donation to:

Pearl Webb Cemetery
c/o Brenda Dudderar
1945 N. Jackson Hwy
Hardyville, KY 42746

Also, anyone wishing to be added to our mailing list, please drop us a note. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to keep the Pearl Webb Cemetery looking beautiful for future generations.



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God Bless America!