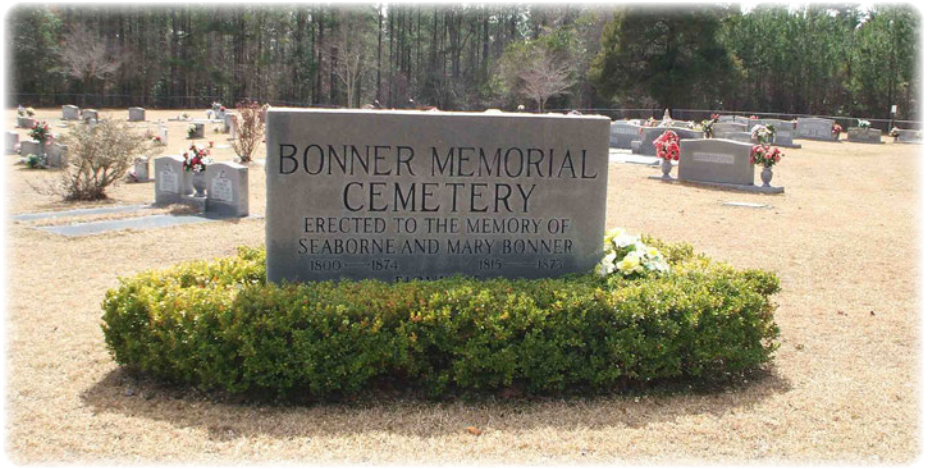


The Bonner Memorial Cemetery is located two miles west of Toxey, Alabama in what was originally the flower garden of Seaborne Lafayette Bonner, Sr. and Mary Martin Bonner. The Bonner home (1837) stood on the south-southwestern edge of the current cemetery. This land was purchased from the federal government by Seaborne L. Bonner, Sr.'s father, Jordan Bonner, Sr., around 1809. The Bonner family remains the only Europeans to have ever owned this land.

The cemetery had its genesis with the death of five-year-old Nancy Bonner, daughter of Seaborne L. (Sr.) and Nancy Martin Bonner, in May 1850. The Bonners buried their daughter in her mother's flower garden. Eventually, eight of their ten children would be buried at Bonner Memorial Cemetery (Seaborn L. Bonner, Jr. is buried in Bright Water Cemetery, alongside his wife's family; and Andrew Lee Bonner, a Confederate soldier in the 3rd Alabama Infantry, was killed during the Fredericksburg Campaign [1862] and buried near Cross Roads, Virginia).

Seaborn E. Bonner (Seaborne L. Bonner, Sr.'s grandson), and his wife, Viola McMillan Bonner, organized a memorial service at the cemetery on the May 10, 1931. The family continued to meet for this service on the second Sunday in May each year until 2010, when the date was changed to the Sunday before Mother's Day. The cemetery was much smaller than it is today, at first. In 1959, Seaborn E. Bonner's youngest son, Gleney B. Bonner, donated additional land and landscaping in to provide for ample parking and create a circular drive through the cemetery, bringing the cemetery's total size to three acres.

The Bonner Memorial Cemetery Board of Directors was formed in 1965. The first board members were Odell Davidson, Coleman Newton, Dave Casey, Toney Doggette, Gleney B. Bonner, C.L. Thompson, Slater Jackson, Douglas Jackson, Biniam Gilbert, and Seth E. Bonner (chair). Edith Barefield was elected secretary and treasurer, with Ruth B. Dicks her assistant. The Board of Directors oversee the maintenance of the cemetery grounds and facilities.

The tabernacle was erected in 1967, with a dirt floor. By 1971, the floor was concrete and an addition had been added to the north side of the tabernacle for hosting the annual dinner-on-the-grounds that follows the memorial service. In May 1975, descendants dedicated a granite marker at the entrance to the cemetery.

In April 1977, the cemetery association, under the leadership of Gleney B. Bonner, established a savings trust fund to ensure the perpetual care of the cemetery. The generosity and continual patronage of the Bonner descendants, however, has to date completely funded the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery, leaving the trust fund untouched and growing. Gleney Bonner's foresight ensures that last resting place of the Bonner family will be cared for long after the present generation is gone.

Bonner

Memorial Cemetery

Eighty-Sixth Annual Memorial Service

Toxey, Alabama

May 5, 2024



Bonner Memorial Cemetery

Business Meeting
Mr. Michael Speed, Presiding
May 5, 2024
Business Session – 10:30 A.M.

1. Minutes and Financial Report — Mrs. Anna Ratliff, Secretary/Treasurer

Checking Account

Checking Balance May 7, 2023		$231.32
Income May 7, 2023 – March 31, 2024		
Donations & Memorials		$4,335.00
Expenditures May 7, 2023 – March 31, 2024		
Mowing & Cemetery Upkeep		
• Toxey VFD		$50.00
• Stump Grinding	(June 2023)	$600.00
• Trees Cut & Stumps Ground	(Jan. 2024)	$1,600.00
• Mowing 12x @ $200		$2,400.00
Speaker Honorarium		$100.00
Total Expenditures		$4,400.00
BALANCE March 31, 2024		$166.32
Expenditures March 31, 2024 - Present		
Mowing & Cemetery Upkeep		
• Mowing 2x @ $200 (loan from Anna Ratliff)		$400.00
• Toxey VFD		$50.00
Speaker Honorarium		$100.00
BALANCE May 2, 2024		-$383.68

Trust Fund

C.D. Balance May 4, 2023	$24,627.64
Interest less fees on C.D. May 2, 2024	$536.06
Balance May 2, 2024	$25,163.70

2. Old Business
   a. Cemetery Registry – John Ratliff - https://bonnercemetery.com
   b. Descendants List - https://bit.ly/3VMgsFB
      Password = NancyBonner1850
3. New Business

Bonner Memorial Cemetery

Eighty-Sixth Annual Memorial Service
May 5, 2024

Invocation – Rev. Jerry Higdon

Welcome & Recognition – Mr. Michael Speed

Choral Worship

In Memory of – Ms. Sherry Bonner

- Lavern Bonner Bonner
  - November 30, 1925 - December 12, 2023
  - Wife of Great Grandson (John Elmer Bonner, Sr.)
- Bennie Mack Todd
  - Aug 29, 1932 - December 8, 2023
  - Husband of G-Great Granddaughter (Betty Ruth Davidson Todd)
- Betty Ruth Davidson Todd
  - December 4, 1932 - August 30, 2023
  - G-Great Granddaughter

Choral Worship

Offertory – Mr. Michael Speed

Choral Worship

Message – Rev. Jerry Higdon

Report of Offering – Mr. Michael Speed

Benediction & Blessing – Dr. John Ratliff

Lunch and Fellowship to Follow

Bonner Memorial Cemetery Board of Directors

Michael Speed, President

Sammie Bonner, Jr.; Sherry Bonner; Gerald Davidson; Jimmy Davidson; Oscar Goree; John Lewis Jackson; John Ratliff; & Cecil Smith