

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 when five-year-old Nancy Bonner, daughter of Seaborne L. (Sr.) and Nancy Martin Bonner, died from jaundice 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, died during the Fredericksburg Campaign [1862] and was 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 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 at that first memorial service than it is today. In 1959, Seaborn E. Bonner's youngest son, Gleney B. Bonner, donated additional land to provide for ample parking and vehicle access to the cemetery, bringing its total size to three acres.

The Bonner Memorial Cemetery Board of Directors was formed in 1965 in order to oversee the maintenance of the cemetery grounds. The original members were Odell Davidson, Coleman Newton, Dave Casey, Toney Doggette, Gleney B. Bonner, C. L. Thompson, Slater Jackson, Douglas Jackson, and Bivin Gilbert, and Seth E. Bonner as chairman. Edith Barefield was elected secretary and treasurer, with Ruth B. Dicks her assistant.

The first tabernacle was erected in 1967, with only 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. Estelle Bonner and Hilda and Gray Speed added an additional seating area to the tabernacle in the early 1990s. At the May 2024 memorial, descendants voted to construct a new tabernacle building, which was completed in time for the 2026 memorial.

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 largely funded the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery. The association relied upon the trust fund in April 2025 to remove pine trees destroyed during a beetle infestation. Gleney Bonner's foresight ensures that the final resting place of the Bonner family will be cared for long after the present generation is gone.

Bonner

Memorial Cemetery

Eighty-Eighth Annual Memorial Service

Toxey, Alabama

May 3, 2026



Bonner Memorial Cemetery

Business Meeting
Mr. Michael Speed, Presiding

May 3, 2026

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

Checking Account

Checking Balance May 4, 2025	$1,451.73
Income 2025 – 2026	
2025-6 Annual Donations & Memorials	$2,337.00
Transfer from Tabernacle Fund (deposit)	$6,000.00
	$9,828.73
Regular Expenditures 2025-6	
Mowing & Cemetery Upkeep	
• 10x @ $200	$2,000.00
Speaker Honorarium	$100.00
Toxey Fire Department	$50.00
Remit to Anna Ratliff for Stump Removal	$250.00
Building Deposit - Tabernacle Construction	$6,000.00
Transfer Fee	$3.00
Total Expenditures	$8,403.00
BALANCE May 1, 2026	$1,425.73
Outstanding Liability	
Remaining Balance of Tabernacle Costs	$8,000.00

Savings Account

Remaining Tabernacle Fund Donations	$2,319.80
Outstanding Trust Fund Monies	$21,723.34
Income from Donations and Interest	$295.66
BALANCE May 1, 2026	$24,338.80

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

Bonner Memorial Cemetery

Eighty-Eighth Annual Memorial Service

May 3, 2026

Invocation – Mr. Michael Speed

Welcome & Recognition – Mr. Michael Speed

Choral Worship – Mr. Cecil Smith
& Ms. Michi Lunceford

In Memory of – Ms. Sherry Bonner

- Kerry Lynn Tindle
  - November 7, 1960 - January 16, 2026
  - GGG Grandson
  - Entered at Grissard Cemetery, El Paso, Arkansas
- Sarah Elaine Jenkins Tindle
  - April 15, 1941 - May 29, 2025
  - GG Granddaughter
  - Entered at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetary in North Little Rock, Arkansas

Offertory – Mr. Cecil Smith

Choral Worship – Mr. Cecil Smith
& Ms. Michi Lunceford

Message – Mr. Barry Roberts

Report of Offering – Mr. Michael Speed

Benediction and Blessing – Volunteer

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