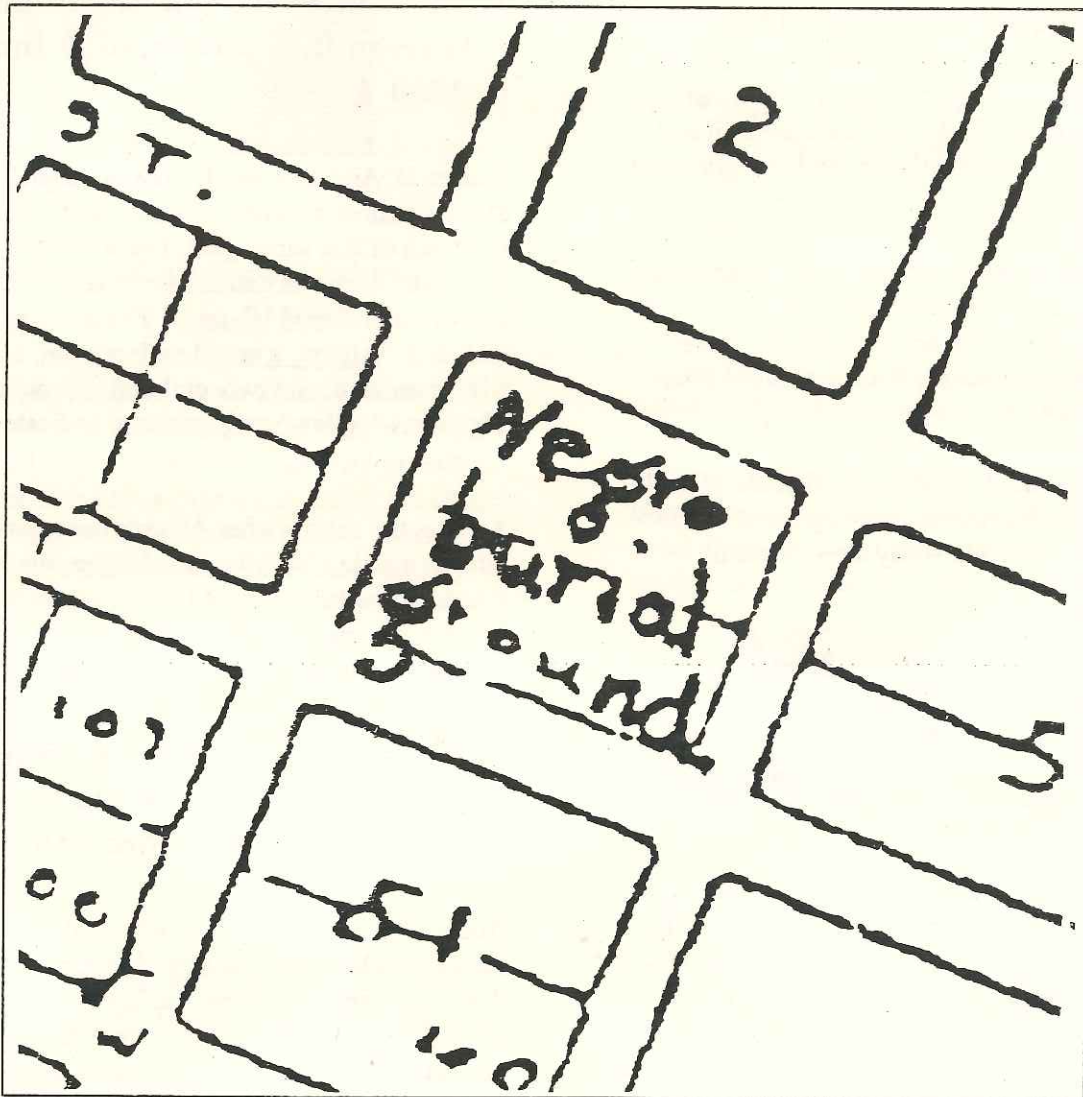


self-guiding
walking tour of

Cahawba's "Negro Burial Ground"



The "Negro Burial Ground" is clearly identified
on early maps of Cahawba.

Use this brochure to tour Cahawba's "Negro Burial Ground," and to learn something about Cahawba's African-American community. Start at the gate, follow the trail, and make a clockwise loop through the graveyard. Numbered posts along the trail refer to the numbered text below:

1. Introduction

This cemetery was probably created in 1819 to be a slave cemetery. However African-Americans continued to use this graveyard after emancipation. The last known burial was in 1957. As you walk the trail and read the tombstones, note that most mark the graves of people born into slavery.

Although the cemetery only contains a few headstones, hundreds of bodies are probably buried here. Cahawba's enslaved population outnumbered slave holders. In 1860, 1920 people lived within the town limits: 1200 were Black; 720 were White.

Please respect the sanctity of this sacred place. The shallow rectangular depressions in the ground's surface are unmarked graves. Walk softly along the trail. Please don't move any gravestones or artifacts you might see along the trail.



2. Mealy Starke

This elaborate iron fence has a gate plate that reads "Mealy Starke." The one small stone enclosed by the fence is carved with the name "Amelia." "Mealy" was probably Amelia's nickname.

According to both the 1870 and 1880 census records, an Amelia Starke did live in Cahawba. She was born in Tennessee during slavery times, and after emancipation lived with her husband Shadrack Starke, a Cahawba farmer. The family of Shadrack and Amelia included at least three girls. The eldest, Laura, was born before emancipation.

3. **Elijah, son of Alice Curtis; died Nov. 21, 1866, aged 22 years**

4. **Florence, daughter of Wm. & Alice Moore, born July 13, 1863 []**

William and Alice Moore, like the Starkes (see #2) started their family in slavery times. In 1870, Florence was the 5th child of seven. Their ages ranged from 20 to 1, and their names were Josephine, Irene, William, Cornelius, Florence, Carrie, and Harvey.

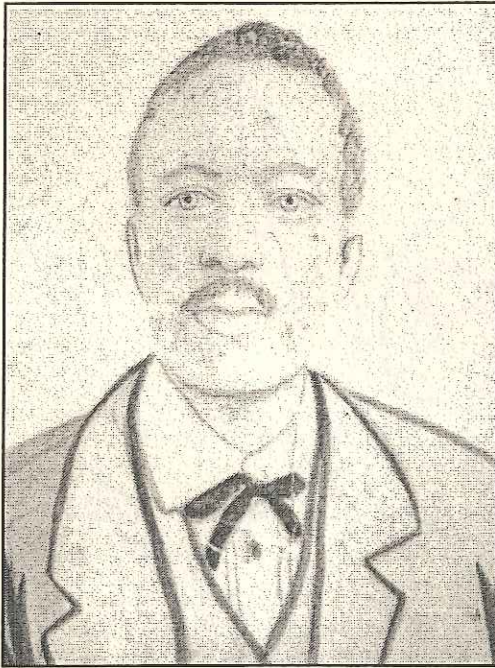
5. **In Memory of Albert, servant of Warren B. Andrews, died June 5th, 1860**

Warren B. Andrews was Cahawba's sheriff. In 1860, Sheriff Andrews owned 16 slaves and 3 slave houses. In March of that same year, two months before Albert died, Mr. Andrews had to mortgage four town lots and five of his enslaved laborers. The mortgaged slaves included: "**Albert, a small yellow man**, Jo Ann, his wife, a mulatto, and two children, Cornelius & Jordon." The terms "yellow" and "mulatto" indicate that Albert and his wife had light skin and mixed ancestry.

Apparently, shortly after Albert's death, his wife gave birth to a little girl, Alberta. After emancipation, Jo Ann took the last name of Cochran (or Crocheron) and became a seamstress. Both boys, Cornelius & Jordon, grew up in Cahawba and became school teachers.

6a. **Sam Arthur; Alabama Wagoner, 814 Pioneer Inf., World War I; March 10, 1887*; died Jan. 3, 1953.**

Although Andrew and Sam both died in the 1950's, their father was born into slavery. His name was Ezekiel Arthur. After emancipation, Ezekiel quickly took advantage of his freedoms. Family tradition maintains he searched for and found his sisters in Louisiana. He became a successful family man, farmer, and land owner. He purchased the old Fambro house in 1894, and over 100 years later, his descendants still owned this home. To see the Fambro/Arthur house travel south on Oak Street. It's located on the east side of the road between First North Street and Capital Street. (Private residence).



Ezekiel Arthur

**6b. In Memory of Andrew Arthur;
Sept. 8, 1886*; Jan. 8, 1957**

In 1904, a young Andrew Arthur killed another Cahawba resident in self defense. On their way to church one Sunday night, Andrew and the other man apparently came to blows over a girl. After the incident, Andrew surrendered himself to the county jail. When he was released, Andrew returned to Cahawba. By 1910, he was married and raising a 2 year old son.

** since Sam and Andrew were brothers, these dates are questionable*

7. Infant

**8. Edward Craig; Tennessee Pvt., 1st
Cl. 368 Inf., 92 Div.; May 31, 1920**

Edward was born in 1891. His nickname was "Doodle." While he was in France during World War I, his family worked nearby at Kirkview Farms . His mother Celie was the cook and ran the house for the Kirkpatrick family. His wife Donie was in charge of washing and ironing. She boiled the clothes in a big black iron pot out in the yard and stirred them with a long smooth paddle. Her ironing chores were done in the second

story of a brick structure located behind the Kirkpatrick house. The main house burned in 1935, but the brick structure Donie used for ironing still stands today.

**9. Virginia, daughter of Margaret Perrine;
Born July 23, 1856; died July 7, 1857**

In 1999, a heartless criminal stole this last remnant of little Virginia's life. If you see her small stone in an antique shop or elsewhere, please notify the Cahawba staff and the police. In Alabama, the removal of a tombstone from any cemetery is a crime that carries a penalty of up to twelve months in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

**10. Laura, wife of George Hatcher;
died May 16, 1863**

Laura was the first of George Hatcher's four wives. Her sister Miss Eliza English was his second wife. George had 16 children, and lived to be 73.

George Hatcher was one of a large family of boys. His father, Jordan Hatcher, was considered, even in slave days, a successful man. He hired his own time and that of his boys, from his master. He taught the boys the trades: blacksmithing, wheelwrighting, and carpentry. After emancipation, Jordan Hatcher was a public school teacher, and for ten years the Cahawba postmaster

Jordan Hatcher is probably best remembered as a member of Alabama's 1868 Constitutional Convention. Jordan tried to shape a moderate constitution that would be fair to everyone. He opposed the disfranchisement of former Confederate leaders. He also wanted equal rights for Blacks. Interestingly, he tried to persuade the Convention to return the Dallas County Court House to Cahawba. The abandonment of Cahawba began with the removal of the courthouse to Selma in 1867.

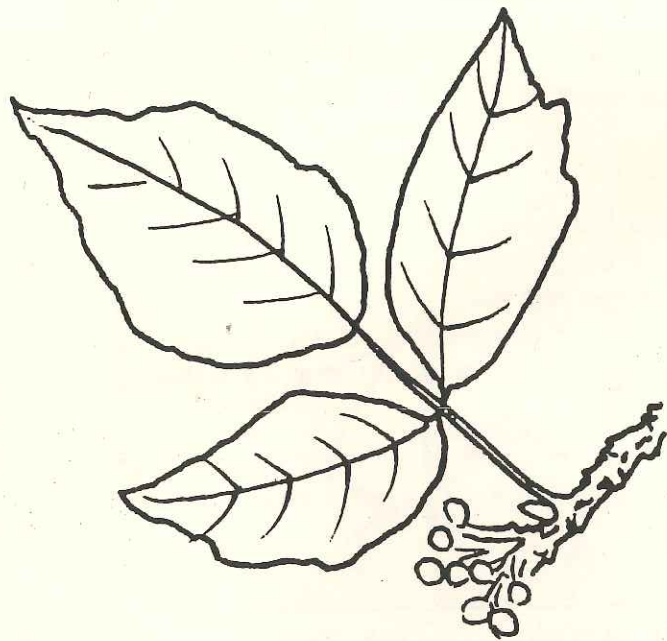


George Hatcher

Poison Ivy Beware!

Leaves of three, Leave it be!

Poison ivy is a vine. It grows on the ground, stumps, and tree trunks. The leaves are always in groups of three. If oil from the poison ivy plant gets on your skin, it can give you an itchy, unpleasant, red rash. Watch out for poison ivy on the trees along the trail.



A Special Thank You

Prior to 1996, public access was limited to this cemetery, even for descendants. In the fall of 1993, Explorer Scout Post 2011 of the Boy Scouts of America conducted an initial survey of the cemetery and located many of the monuments. In 1994 a number of concerned citizens at a Black Heritage Council meeting in Selma signed a petition protesting the closing of the public road that led to this burial ground. In March of 1996, the Archaeological Conservancy and Cahawba Concern banded together to purchase surrounding land for the park, so access to the cemetery could be assured. In May of 1996, Joshua Allen Watters built a bridge and opened a trail into the cemetery for his Eagle Scout project. The Alabama Historical Commission thanks all of these concerned individuals. Without their dedication, this important part of Cahawba's history would have remained neglected and forgotten.

Do you have ancestors buried here?

If you do, please contact the Cahawba Park staff by visiting the Welcome Center. Your family history and suggestions could help us better interpret and care for this special site.

**Old Cahawba Archaeological Park
Alabama Historical
Commission**