

UPTON-THOMPSON CEMETERY

Coordinate location of the Upton- Thompson Cemetery, listed as the Upton/Durham Cemetery on Page 365 of Tishomingo County Mississippi Cemeteries, Volume I, 1996.

From Iuka take Airport Road (CR995) South and after passing the south end of Airport, CR 201 will be the first road to the left (coordinate N34 ° 45.616', W 088 ° 08, 220'), continue eastward to the Hurricane Ridge Road (this is an unpaved, un-numbered road, used in the late 1800s and early 1900s for access to Cherokee, Alabama and the south fork served the Stanford Family and others before intersecting the Tuscumbia to Jacinto Road (CR 957). The coordinate at the intersection of Hurricane Ridge Road and County Road 201 is N34 ° 45.217', W088 08.220'. Follow Hurricane Ridge Road to coordinate N34 ° 45.326', W 088 07.587' where the road to the south intersects. Follow this road south to coordinate N34 ° 44.995', W 088 07.446' which is .63 of a mile south of the intersection. At this point the road being traveled continues south, the old road to the Stanford place goes up the hill and the old road to the Upton-Durham Cemetery goes east. In dry weather this point can be reached with a high clearance pickup, preferably a four-wheel drive. From this point to the cemetery use of a horse, 4-wheeler, or walk would be recommended. Take this old road (not very visible except pine trees were not planted in it) for .4 mile to coordinate N34 ° 44.995', W088 ° 07.446', to the center of the burial mound. My dad told me that this was an old Indian burial mound and one white man by the name of Durham was buried here. This information was later confirmed to me by N.C. Berryman who lives southeast of the cemetery and south of Pennywinkle Creek. On this visit a small marker with the name of Durham was placed on top of the ground at the edge of the cemetery and it has not been there on my previous visits to the cemetery through the years. My grandfather Perry Williams told me that these Indians were Chickasaws. Upton Thompson purchased this land from M. Farris (who was probably Major Farris who was Alfred Farris's ancestors) sometime between October 28, 1840 and July 6, 1883 and the deed is recorded in Book Z, page 60 in the old records of Tishomingo County. These records are stored in Alcorn County, but Cindy Nelson, director of the Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum, has microfilmed some of these records and this deed could possibly be found there at the old courthouse. The only Upton family name I have knowledge of were down around Belmont and I believe only three Uptons are buried in this county and they are buried in the south end of the county. I do not know where Upton Thompson is buried. This cemetery should be referred to as the Thompson/Durham Cemetery, but for continuity purposes should be called the Upton Thompson/Durham Cemetery.

Upton Thomason (??) also purchased land in section 10, township 4, range 11 (s/e ¼), with deed being recorded in Book Z, page 6 about the same time he purchased the land in section 11, township 4, range 11 recorded in Book Z, page 60. I believe the correct spelling should be Thompson in the records of section 10, township 4, range 11, as it is in section 11, township 4, range 11.

Possibly this information, if published or maintained in the permanent records of the Tishomingo County Archives & History Museum, will prevent this cemetery from being lost as it almost is now.

The above information was submitted by TCHGS member, Gene Jourdan, October 2006 and transcribed by Christina Goss.