

**Big South Fork  
National River & Recreation Area**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
[www.nps.gov/biso](http://www.nps.gov/biso)



# Decoration Day



## Cemetery Quest 2025

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Welcome To The 2025 Decoration Day Cemetery Quest

This event is designed to connect each participant to a small part of the human history of the Cumberland Plateau. During this quest you will visit several historic communities within the Tennessee and Kentucky region of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Within these places are cemeteries where the people who called these places home are laid to rest.

The Cemetery Quest can be completed in the order presented in the book, or in any arrangement that is easiest for you. Complete the booklet by May 31 to receive the 2025 Cemetery Quest Challenge Patch. While visiting the locations in the Cemetery Quest, take advantage of the opportunity to collect points toward the GO BIG 2025 Challenge. Earn 10 points for completing the quest, plus 5 bonus points for collecting one bag of trash during your adventure; however, do not take anything from the graves in the cemeteries. If you finish the Cemetery Quest before 4:00 PM (ET) on May 3, you will receive an extra 10 points.

Note: names in **bold** are specific people to look for in each cemetery.



Burial in the late 1950s Katie Blevins Cemetery. Source: NPS

## What Is Decoration Day?

Cemeteries contain stories hidden behind tablets of stone. In Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, cemeteries serve as a reminder of the people who called this rugged and beautiful land home. Beginning in late spring, people journey to cemeteries throughout the mountains to celebrate Decoration Day. Annie Troxell, who was interviewed as part of the Big South Fork Oral History Project in the 1970s, gave vivid descriptions of Decoration Day services around 1900 that are still carried on today.

*"Generally, they'd go to the graveyards, and most times they'd have preaching and singing and decorate the graves (with flowers). We used to buy this crepe paper to make our flowers but now here of late years they buy these other flowers. Then we'd come back to the house to set the tables to have dinner. Made a big long table out in the yard (a)nd I saw that settin' full... (with) all kinds of food. I have knowed of as high as almost a hundred people being there. They'd come almost all the relatives that could get there and other people besides."*

This combination of memorial service and family reunion takes place in many cultures. Appalachian Decoration Day traces its roots back to traditions in the British Isles. Flowering Sunday is a Welsh holiday that took place on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. This was a time when graves were cleaned and white-washed before they were decorated with fresh flowers.

Decoration Day as an Appalachian tradition was solidified in the aftermath of the American Civil War. As the United States struggled to patch itself back together, veteran and civic organizations in both the north and south began holding memorial services to honor the soldiers who perished. After WWII, the newly renamed Memorial Day was designated a federal holiday to remember all of the people killed in the United States Armed Forces. Yet across Appalachia, many people still hold Decoration Day services to remember and honor their ancestors and to keep an ancient tradition alive. Remember as you walk through these cemeteries that each stone represents a life that lived on earth and was cherished by someone.

## Cemeteries In Alphabetical Order

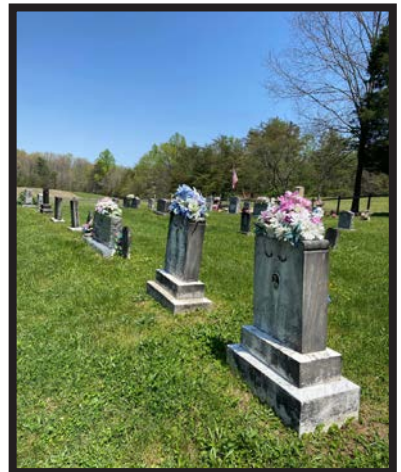
- Hazel Valley Cemetery
- Historic Huntsville Cemetery
- Katie Blevins Cemetery
- Laurel Dale Cemetery
- Otter Creek Cemetery
- Reed Cemetery
- Stockton Cemetery
- Thomas M. Ross Cemetery

## Katie Blevins Cemetery

**Directions:** From the Bandy Creek Visitor Center, turn left onto Bandy Creek Road. Proceed about a mile and the cemetery is on the right. Limited parking is available at the Lora Blevins homesite.

The Katie Blevins Cemetery was established in the mid 19th century when Jacob Blevins Sr. was walking in this field. He had been sick for some time and he drove his walking stick into the ground to see how deep the bedrock was. When Jacob Blevins died on September 2, 1868, his wife Catherine, also known as Katie, buried him in the spot that he had marked. Although Jacob Blevins Sr. was the first person buried here, the cemetery bears the name of his wife. The Katie Blevins Cemetery holds the remains of the people who called Bandy Creek and Station Camp home, and whose names still mark the hiking trails and homesites in the area.

1. The origins of many Appalachian cemeteries are shrouded in mystery and it is difficult to determine what the oldest graves are. In the case of Katie Blevins Cemetery, we know exactly who the first person buried here was. While the descendants of Jacob and Catherine Blevins have replaced their handmade tombstones with a modern granite marker, you can still see the remains of inscriptions on the ancient stone slabs. So how does one explain the large amount of unmarked graves or uninscribed fieldstones present in this cemetery? Are these the oldest graves here? It comes down to education and economics. The earliest settlers in the Big South Fork often had a basic education, the evidence of which can be seen on the early land deeds and Revolutionary War pension applications. When this first generation of settlers died, their families would carve out a tombstone with a crude inscription to mark their burial place. After the Civil War, education in Appalachia fell to the point that by 1900, roughly 90% of mountain people could not read. This statistic, tied to the scarcity of cash in this area, means that people who were illiterate or poor often marked their loved ones' graves with uninscribed fieldstones up until the 1930s.



Katie Blevins Cemetery. Source: NPS

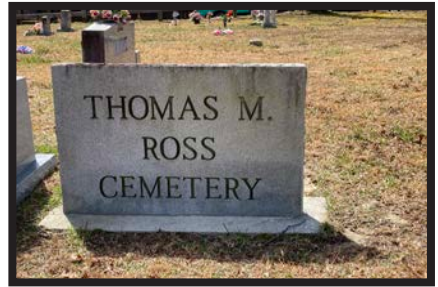
How many unmarked/fieldstone marked plots can you find? \_\_\_\_\_

2. It may be hard to believe, but there is a grave here that has two headstones with two different names on them. **Calvin Blevins** was the son of John and Louisa Blevins, who are also buried here. When he was a young man, he heard about someone on the Big South Fork River stealing fish out of his family's fish trap. He went down to investigate and caught the thieves red-handed. He pulled his pistol and fired over their heads as a warning, but the bullet ricocheted off a tree limb and killed one of the individuals. Rather than going to jail or being killed in retaliation, he left the area and changed his name. He joined the army during World War II and returned to Scott County late in life. When he passed away, his family applied to the U.S. government for a military plaque, but they had to get it under his assumed name. Look at the foot of his grave to find the plaque with his alias on it. His alias was \_\_\_\_\_.

## Thomas M. Ross Cemetery

**Directions from Bandy Creek Visitor Center:** Head out on Leatherwood Rd/TN-297 E toward Oneida, TN. Turn right to stay on Coopertown Rd/TN-297 for 4 miles. Turn right to stay on Industrial Lane/TN-297 for 0.7 miles. Turn left onto US-27 N/Alberta St. Continue straight on US-27 N for 13.5 miles (entering Kentucky). Turn left onto KY-92. In 2.9 miles, bear left onto KY-742/Mine 18 Rd. Proceed about 3 miles; the cemetery is on the left, adjacent to Ross Grove Baptist Church.

Thomas M. Ross Cemetery is a resting place that reflects the resilience and close-knit spirit of the community it served. The residents of Ross Grove, like many others in the region, were deeply tied to the coal industry. Generations of families worked in nearby coal camps, helping to power the region's economy while facing the demanding and often dangerous realities of mining life. Though small in size, Ross Grove was a community built on mutual support and shared experience—especially as families navigated the hardships of coal country together.



Thomas M. Ross Cemetery sign.  
Source: NPS

**3.** Nearly 90 years ago, a tragic case unfolded involving 19-year-old **Butler Ross** of Paunch Creek, who mysteriously disappeared during a trip to Yamacraw with Willie and Ellen Stephens and Charlie Clark. The group reportedly got into an argument after attempting to repair a broken axle on their vehicle. During the altercation, Charlie Clark fired two shots—and soon after, Ross vanished.

A week later, two boys fishing near Alum Ford discovered a body wedged between two logs. They returned to Whitley City and alerted authorities, who recovered the remains and brought them to town. The coroner determined that Ross had been murdered. His head had been crushed, and although the condition of the body made it difficult to confirm the presence of bullet wounds, it was believed he had been beaten to death before being thrown into the river.

Following an investigation, all three individuals were arrested. Charlie Clark was convicted of the murder, found guilty of striking Ross and disposing of his body in the river. He was sentenced to 21 years in prison. Willie and Ellen Stephens were also tried but were ultimately released.

Butler Ross was 20 years old and \_\_\_\_day(s) when he was murdered.

**4.** As the automobile became a symbol of freedom in the 20th century, it also brought new dangers. For many, driving offered a lifeline—connecting workers to distant jobs and families spread across states. But on the winding highways of Kentucky, not every journey ended safely.

**Emby A. Duncan**, a longtime coal miner from Revelo, Kentucky, had spent most of his life working deep beneath the earth. In later years, he found new work as a laborer in Muncie, Indiana. Like many Appalachian families, Duncan and his fellow workers often made long drives back home on weekends to be with loved ones. It was on one such trip, along U.S. Highway 27 near Stanford, that tragedy struck. The car, owned by Hillery Boyatt and driven by Emby's own son Sylvester, was involved in a collision. Emby lost his life. Boyatt suffered a broken neck and internal injuries, while Sylvester and another passenger escaped with minor wounds. Emby Duncan's journey ended not in



the mines, but on the road back to family.

Just a few years later, **Jerry A. Daugherty**, a 23-year-old from Covington, Kentucky, met a similar fate. Driving along U.S. 42 near Florence, the lights on his car suddenly failed, sending the vehicle into a culvert where it overturned. Daugherty was pinned in the wreckage and pronounced dead at the hospital. Three passengers survived with minor injuries. At just 23, his life was cut short on a dark stretch of highway, a reminder of how quickly the ordinary act of driving can turn fatal.

These two graves tell a shared story of lives forever changed in an instant.

Look closely at their gravestones—what details do you see that reflect their lives, their families, or their journey? What do their headstones tell you beyond just names and dates?

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**5. George Wilson**, born on February 6, 1903, in McCreary County, Kentucky, was a hardworking coal miner who spent much of his life working for Stearns Coal and Lumber Company. George spent his days in the mines, helping fuel the region's coal industry.

Despite his years of service to his community, George's life was marked by controversy. In a tragic and deeply personal event, he faced charges of maliciously shooting Becky Watson during a confrontation over his daughter, Marilyn. The details surrounding the shooting remain unclear, with conflicting stories from both parties involved. George believed that Becky Watson was harboring his daughter, who had left home at the age of 14, and this belief escalated into violence. George claimed that Becky had attacked his wife with an axe, prompting him to defend his family by shooting Becky. However, the Watsons contended that Mrs. Watson was merely trying to escape the Wilsons when the shooting occurred. The shooting left Becky Watson severely injured, and while she was not expected to survive, she ultimately recovered. Though initially convicted and sentenced to two years in prison, George later won an appeal on the case and did not serve time. He spent his final years in Revelo, where he passed away on \_\_\_\_\_ after a long illness.



Thomas M. Ross Cemetery. Source: NPS

## Otter Creek Troxell Cemetery

**Directions from Ross Grove Cemetery:** Turn left (SW) out of the parking lot onto KY-742/Mine 18 Rd. Take the first left onto Bear Creek Rd (0.1 mile). In 2 miles, turn left onto Otter Creek Rd. In 0.2 miles, the cemetery will be on the right, adjacent to First Otter Creek United Baptist Church.

**Directions from Oneida, TN:** Head north on US-27 for about 10 miles (entering Kentucky). Turn left onto KY-1470/Mt Pleasant Rd for 2.2 miles. Continue straight onto Mt Pleasant Rd for 0.8 miles. Keep right onto Ross Rd for 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Otter Creek Rd. In 0.7 miles, the cemetery will be on the left, adjacent to First Otter Creek United Baptist Church.

The Troxell family settled the Big South Fork area in the late 1700s. This cemetery contains many of the Troxell family as well as other people from the Bear Creek area and is also known as the Otter Creek Cemetery.



Otter Creek Troxell Cemetery. Source: NPS

**6. Jacob Troxell Sr.** was born in Kentucky in 1832 to George W. Troxell and Nancy Abbott Troxell. He married his wife Elizabeth around 1859, their first child Jane arriving soon after. After the firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, he volunteered for the Union Army, joining Company I, 30th Kentucky Infantry. Jacob Troxell was one of three of the Troxell family who served in this unit, including Peter Troxell who is also buried here. This regiment was mustered into service for one year and was created to protect the state capitol and fought with Confederate guerillas throughout 1864-1865. The regiment served well and was known as "one of the most efficient one-year regiments in the service" according to a report by the Adjutant General. The unit's service ended on April 18th, 1865, four days after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Jacob Troxell returned to Kentucky and passed away on August 3, 1915 from pneumonia. How old was he when the Civil War began? \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Braxton Russel (B.R.) King** and **Charlotte Cox** were married on August 23, 1878. Braxton (Brack) King was born in 1855, and Charlotte Cox was born in 1865. Braxton was a farmer and logged timber on the side to support his growing family of 13 children. He was also a circuit riding minister who traveled on horseback to the mountain churches, often having to stay away from home for several days. His ministerial work did not pay, so the farm work had to be handled by his wife and children during his absence. The King Farm on Bear Creek encompassed 600 acres and included the Bear Creek Overlook and Split Bow Arch. After Charlotte King passed away on \_\_\_\_\_ at the age of 61, Braxton King moved in with his children. He died on December 13, 1943, at the age of 88. Surviving him were seven children, 34 grandchildren, and 32 great-grandchildren.

How long were Braxton and Charlotte King married when she passed away? \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Charles N. (Newton) King** was the fourth son of Rev. B.R. and Charlotte King and was the last of their children to pass away. He was a blacksmith and raised his family near the Bear Creek Trailhead. Visit the Bear Creek Trailhead to see the ruins of the King home. Big South Fork NRRRA does prescribed burns on the property on a regular basis to preserve the farm fields and other features. When did Charles pass away? \_\_\_\_\_



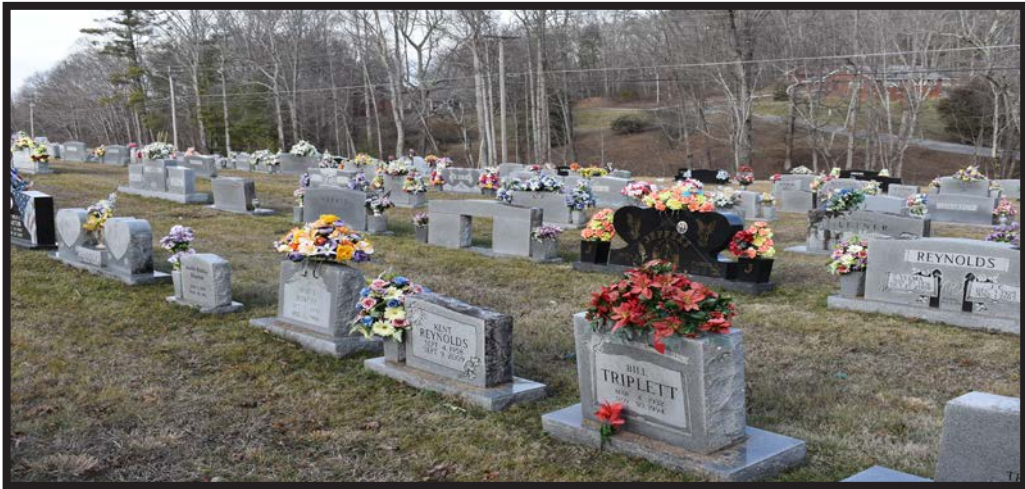
King family photo. Charles Newton King is the third person from the right.  
Source: courtesy of Eric Ross



## Hazel Valley Cemetery

**Directions from Bandy Creek Visitor Center:** Head out on Leatherwood Rd/TN-297 E toward Oneida, TN. Turn right to stay on Coopertown Rd/TN-297 for 3.3 miles. Turn right onto Verdun Rd. In 0.6 miles, keep straight onto O&W Rd. In 187 feet, turn left onto Verdun Rd. In 0.5 miles, turn right onto Marcum Rd. Immediately turn right onto Royce Ln. The cemetery is on the right.

Scott County's largest cemetery began as a family burial plot more than 135 years ago. Campbell County Reed—yes, that was his name—and his wife, Martha Ann Chitwood, were prominent landowners in the area, who oversaw a thriving farm. They sold a portion of their land to make way for a mill, a church, and a school, fostering the growth of the local community. Reed Station was later established on their property, serving as a vital stop along the Oneida and Western Railway. Over time, the station was relocated further along Pine Creek toward the O&W Bridge, while the original site became known as Verdun Station, preserving its place in local history.



Hazel Valley Cemetery. Source: NPS

**9. C.C. Reed** was a key figure in the early development of local communities, serving as both a Justice of the Peace and a county clerk during the founding of Scott County. After serving as a private in the Union Army during the Civil War, he bore witness to the transformation of the Cumberland Plateau from agricultural settlements into flourishing, industrial towns. Upon his passing on July 11, 1886, he was laid to rest on the hill overlooking his cherished farm, becoming the first individual buried there. Scott County was established in 1849 from parts of Campbell County. How old was C.C. Reed at that time? \_\_\_\_\_

**10.** It is not every day that a tombstone describes how the deceased passed, but the stone of **Girstle Reed** leaves no doubt to what happened to him. Family lore tells that he was walking across

the yard with his older brother on a stormy day when he died suddenly.

What happened to Girstle Reed? \_\_\_\_\_

How old was he when he passed? \_\_\_\_\_

## Alford Smith Funeral Held

Alford Smith 78, passed away at Fort Sanders Hospital in Knoxville Sunday March 15, 1970 after an illness of eight weeks. He was the son of the late John Smith and the late Polly Ann Blevins Smith, a member of the West Oneida Baptist Church.

Survivors, wife, Elva Smith of Oneida, Tenn., two daughters, Mrs. Ruth Evans of Muncie, Ind., Mrs. Edna Sharpe of Oneida, Tenn., nine sons, Claude, Lonnie and C l a y Smith of Muncie, Ind., Leon, J.D., Arvillee, Ralph and Milford Smith all of Fort Wayne, Ind., Herbert Smith of Oneida, Tenn., three brothers, Sam Smith of Cincinnati, Ohio, Jake and Conellon Smith both of Oneida, Tenn., one sister, Mrs. Betty Smith of Cincinnati, Ohio, twenty three grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted from the Bethlehem Baptist Church 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday March 17, 1970 with the Rev. Roy Blevins and Rev. James E. Marcum officiating. Burial followed in the Hazel Valley Cemetery.

West Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Scott County News. 1970.

**11. Alford Smith** was born along the Big South River on \_\_\_\_\_. His father was John J. "Hawk" Smith, a noted moonshiner and bootlegger who once killed his own father-in-law in a drunken brawl. Alford Smith didn't follow the rough life of his family for the most part. He farmed in several places along the river, but never owned his own farm. He was married first to Nancy J. Burke. After she died of a heart attack at age thirty, he remarried to Elva Choate. At one time, he and Elva lived near where the Bandy Creek Visitor Center is now located, and their son Archie Smith is buried alongside the Grand Gap Loop Trail. Although Alford Smith only went to school through third grade, he donated labor and land for a school near their home so that his children could receive an education. In 1940, he worked for a sawmill near Bandy Creek and earned a salary of \$450 for the year, roughly equal to \$10,330 in 2025. At his death in 1970, he left behind his wife Elva, eleven children, 23 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Alfred Smith Road in Big South Fork is named in honor of him.

**12. When Elva Choate** married Alford Smith at nineteen years old after his first wife died, she inherited five stepchildren between the ages of ten and one. Her tasks as a farm wife included cooking all meals on a wood-burning cook stove, washing all of the laundry by hand outdoors in an iron kettle, helping to take care of the gardens, and tending the small brood of chickens that provided the family's eggs and meat. That is a lot of responsibility for someone so young! In addition to raising her stepchildren, she would bear several more of her own, losing one in infancy. Her son, Archie, is buried along the Grand Gap Loop Trail near the family's homesite within earshot of Fall Branch. She was also active in her church at West Oneida. After Alford died, she remarried to Harry Crooks. She had outlived both husbands and eight of her children/stepchildren by the time that she passed but was survived by whopping 67 descendants! How old was she when she died? \_\_\_\_\_

In what year did she marry Alford Smith? \_\_\_\_\_

## Historic Huntsville Cemetery

**Directions from Oneida, TN:** Head south on US-27 toward Huntsville for 7 miles. Turn left onto TN-63/Baker Hwy. In 3 miles, turn onto Church St. Stay right onto Church St in 489 feet. Continue straight on Litton Covered Bridge Rd for 0.2 miles. Turn right on an unpaved road across from the park. Follow the unpaved road to the end. The cemetery is at the end of the road.

Established in 1872, this cemetery began humbly as the final home to many of the town's most notable figures. The Huntsville Cemetery has endured its share of challenges over the years, once serving as a cow pasture and suffering from periods of neglect. A few years ago, a local Boy Scout Troop adopted this cemetery as an Eagle Scout project. They took on the task of restoring this historic site—trimming overgrown brush, uncovering buried headstones, and carefully cleaning above-ground markers. The work of these dedicated young people brought new life to this forgotten graveyard, preserving its legacy for generations to come.



Huntsville Cemetery. Source: NPS

**13.** Early accounts of life on the Cumberland Plateau are rare, but in 1906, **Jehu Phillips** shared his memories in *The Cumberland Chronicle* series, *Reminiscences of Pioneer Days in Scott County*. He recalled, "I can remember seeing Indians in this county. There were two families living up New River near the mouth of Bull Creek and one family lived near where the town of New River now stands...I have talked with Indians in this county who said that they had never eaten bread made from corn ground on a water mill." He also described witnessing the arrival of the first train in Knoxville: "(W)e heard the train toot and soon she pulled up by us and I tell you every hair stood straight on my head. I will never forget that day. The train tooted again as she came rushing up and every horse jerked loose and ran away." Life in early Scott County was isolated, with "no doctors in this country, and I never saw a doctor until I was grown. There were no preachers living here then." Travel was difficult, as "there were no such thing as wagon roads in this county. There were no wagons and people had no use for a wagon road. The people did not travel about much and when they did it was along bridle paths either horseback or on foot. I saw my first wagon at Jacksboro. In pioneer days here, a covered wagon was a great curiosity and men women and children would follow one for a long distance." In 1849, Phillips helped survey Scott County's western boundary, starting at New River and proceeding over the mountains to the South Fork of the Cumberland River to the Kentucky State line. Before the Civil War, he noted that "when Abe Lincoln ran for President in 1860, he received only one vote in Scott County." Phillips later served in the Union Army and became county trustee. He passed away on \_\_\_\_\_. How old was he when he was interviewed by the newspaper in 1906? \_\_\_\_\_

**14. Nathaniel "Uncle Nat" Hancock** was born into the bondage of slavery but lived to see the dawn of freedom. One of 62 enslaved people in Scott County before the Civil War, he gained his freedom in 1864 and enlisted in the 13th U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery at Camp Nelson, Kentucky. Returning from the war in 1865, he bought a farm in Huntsville, where his family remained the only former slaves in the county. He married Betsie Potter and had five children. He was remembered by one historian as "a congenial old man" who played checkers with everyone who loafed around the general stores. When former president Andrew Johnson returned to Huntsville on a speaking tour in 1872, he displayed a slave auction poster that stated, "I will keep at all times a good stock of negroes and all from selected stock consisting of field hands, blacksmiths, drivers of stock, and generally any type of help wanted. Also a good trade of trusted mammies and young and old seasoned cooks, seamstresses and granny women." Looking over at Mr. Hancock, President Johnson stated, "Mr. Hancock, you will never know the dread of such notices again." Hancock died in 1917 at the age of 91. His grave was unmarked until Boy Scout Troop 333 secured a military headstone. He is the only known Black Civil War soldier buried in Scott County. As the Civil War came to an end, Hancock stood on the threshold of a new era. How old was he when the war concluded? \_\_\_\_\_



Nathaniel Hancock and Virginia Keen.  
Source: George Zepp

**15. Elizabeth Potter** was born into slavery in Scott County and was most likely owned by Jackie Potter, the same man that owned her future husband, Nathaniel. Nothing is known of her early life, but it would have been similar to the life of Anna Lee, who was born enslaved near Huntsville in 1849. Lee talked of chopping cotton, plowing in the fields, cooking meals, and minding her master's young children. Betsie married Nathaniel after emancipation and they had five known children, two of which are buried here on each side of her. She passed away at the age of \_\_\_\_\_. What does the epitaph on her tombstone say? \_\_\_\_\_

**16.** If you look to the far left of the cemetery, you'll find a small, solitary grave marked "**Infant Fosters.**" Strikingly, there are no other Fosters buried nearby. This child was the daughter of Dr. James and Orlena Foster, who rest in Potters Cemetery just across the field. Her tiny headstone stands as the only tangible reminder of her brief existence. How old was she when she passed? \_\_\_\_\_



## Reed Cemetery

**Directions from Oneida, TN:** Head south on US-27 toward Helenwood for 8.5 miles. Turn left onto Glass House Rd. In 0.2 miles, turn left. The cemetery is on the left.

As you enter from Glass House Road, you'll pass beneath a white archway inscribed with "1895 – Reed Cemetery – 1951." This historic burial ground is one of the largest in the region, holding approximately 600 graves. The Reed family primarily settled in the Helenwood area, with some of its earliest members being Isaac Reed and Phariba Hatfield Reed. All of these graves can be found on the left side of the cemetery when you enter from Glass House Road.

**17.** The earliest identifiable burial here belongs to **Sampson Reed**, son of Isaac and Phariba Reed. His headstone is a simple marker, bearing only his name, birth, and death dates—offering no hint of his life or character. How long was Sampson Reed buried before Reed Cemetery was officially established? \_\_\_\_\_

***Continue down the driveway. Pass the mausoleum marked Keeton and look for these next two graves between the concrete wall and the forest.***



James "Lonzo" Hughett.  
Source: Don Hughett

**18. James L. "Lonzo" Hughett's** life was marked by resilience and dedication. After losing his father around age six, he left school to support his mother when his older brothers refused. In 1931, while swimming near the Big South Fork's confluence, his friend Sanders Brown drowned despite Lonzo's rescue attempt—a tragedy he never discussed. During the Great Depression, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, contributing to the development of Pickett State Park's trails and facilities. Seeking employment, he moved to Ohio, assisting friends in securing factory and quarry jobs. However, being away from Tennessee was challenging; he barely made it to his mother Luvania Petree's burial and took two weeks to meet his newborn youngest child in Scott County. After a severe fall at the quarry in the 1960s, Lonzo returned to Tennessee permanently, raising his younger children on a farm near the park boundary. Married twice, he fathered ten children, including James E. "Edward" Hughett, a Vietnam War veteran who died from service-related wounds. Lonzo



was laid to rest beside Edward, embodying the experience of many Appalachians from the Great Depression to the 1970s who left their mountainous homes in search of work.  
How old was he when his son James E. Hughett passed? \_\_\_\_\_

**19. Luvania (Hughett) Petree** was a midwife in southern Scott County. Many nights, she would wake up her son Lonzo to go out to the barn and saddle up the mule. She would then ride miles through the dark to a mountain home and assist a new mother with the delivery of a baby. She learned about herbs and medicine from her father, a Civil War veteran and herb doctor. It isn't known how many babies she delivered over her career, but no doubt many people have her to thank for the success of their family tree. After her first husband died, she remarried Willie Petree, a local minister and farmer eleven years her junior. Her obituary in the Scott County News described her as "a splendid woman (who) had many friends." When she was laid to rest here in January of 1955, her family was too poor to afford a tombstone, so her grave is marked by a metal funeral home marker. What year was she born? \_\_\_\_\_



Willie and Luvania Petree.  
Source: Don Hughett

## Laurel Dale Cemetery

**Directions from Stockton Cemetery:** Head southeast on TN-52. At the four-way stop in Allardt, turn left to continue on TN-52 toward Rugby. After 10 miles, turn left onto Rugby Parkway. In 1.7 miles, turn left onto Laurel Dale Cemetery Rd. The cemetery is at the end of this road.

**Directions from Oneida, TN:** Head south on US-27 toward Rugby for 15 miles. Turn right onto TN-52/Rugby Hwy. In 5.6 miles, turn right onto Rugby Parkway towards Historic Rugby. In 1.7 miles, turn left onto Laurel Dale Cemetery Rd. The cemetery is at the end of this road.

Founded in 1880, the Rugby Colony faced considerable hardships in its early years. One of the most devastating challenges came in late summer of 1881, when a typhoid fever epidemic swept through the community. The outbreak claimed the lives of seven settlers and led to the temporary closure of the Tabard Inn, a central hub of colony life, for thorough cleansing. Beyond the immediate tragedy, fear and uncertainty took hold, prompting some settlers to abandon the colony. By the year's end, Rugby's population had dwindled to just 60 residents.

**20.** Among Rugby's early pioneers was **Robert Walton**, an Irish immigrant and accomplished civil engineer and surveyor. After arriving in the United States in 1869, his family settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he co-founded the firm Nugent & Walton. Walton's expertise earned him the role of Assistant City Engineer of Cincinnati, but his ambitions eventually led him to Rugby, where he played a vital role in the colony's construction and development. His headstone marks his birth as 1841. How old was he when he passed?

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Robert Walton and family standing in front of their barn in Rugby. Source: TN State Library and Archives.

**21. William and Sarah Walton** played a vital role in preserving the legacy of Rugby, Tennessee, throughout the early to mid-1900s. William, born in 1877, was the son of Robert Walton, and together, he and Sarah dedicated their lives to safeguarding Rugby's rich history. They took on the responsibility of maintaining the town's remaining public buildings and lands, ensuring that the spirit of the original colony endured for future generations. Their tireless efforts laid the foundation for the town's preservation, keeping its story alive. The Rugby Restoration Association was established in 1966. How many years had William been deceased by then? \_\_\_\_\_

**22. George William Berry** was born on February 17, 1837, in Worcestershire, England. In 1859, he moved to Massachusetts. During the Civil War, Berry served in the 46th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, a unit tasked with disrupting Confederate supply lines in North Carolina. His service continued in 1862 as a deck guard on a ship, and by 1865, he was in Nashville, painting Union Army insignia on railcars—an important contribution to the war effort. In the 1880s, Berry learned of Thomas Hughes’ colony in Rugby and, in April 1882, he made the move to join this unique community. There, he applied his artistic talents to several prominent projects. Berry painted the doors of the library, the roof of the Tabard Inn Hotel, and the fleur-de-lis inside the church, among other contributions that enriched the town. While many painters might not mind a few splashes of paint on their clothes, Berry was meticulous in his appearance—always bringing extra dress clothes and ties to maintain a “professional” look.

Berry’s energy and zest for life remained strong well into his later years. At 88, he climbed a tree to pick apples but tragically fell, which led to his last three years being spent in a wheelchair. His legacy, however, remains vibrant in the art and contributions he left behind in Rugby.

What year did George fall from the apple tree? \_\_\_\_\_



Rugby library doors painted by George Berry.

Source: NPS

## Stockton Cemetery

**Directions from Bandy Creek Visitor Center:** Turn right onto Bandy Loop. In 1.7 miles, turn right onto Leatherwood Rd/TN-297. In 10.4 miles, turn left onto Pickett Park Hwy/TN-154. Continue for 8.1 miles, then turn left onto Access Dr. Turn left onto US-127S/TN-28/US Hwy 127. In 1.5 miles, take the ramp on the right for TN-52/E Central Ave toward Allardt/Jamestown. Turn left onto Central Ave. In 0.7 miles, turn left onto Commerce Dr. In 0.2 miles, turn right onto Round Mountain Rd. In 3.6 miles, Round Mountain Rd turns into Stockton Rd. In 1.2 miles, keep right to stay on Stockton Rd. Turn right in about 340 feet onto Stockton Cemetery Rd. Follow the road for 0.4 miles; the cemetery is on the left.

**Directions from Laurel Dale Cemetery:** Turn right onto Rugby Parkway for 1.7 miles. Turn right onto TN-52/Rugby Hwy. In 4 miles, turn right onto Willie Crabtree Rd. In 0.6 miles, turn left onto Mount Helen Rd. In 0.4 miles, turn right onto Stockton Rd. In 3.8 miles, turn left onto Stockton Cemetery Rd. Follow the road for 0.4 miles; the cemetery is on the left.



Stockton Cemetery comb graves. Source: NPS

This cemetery is distinguished by its comb, or tent graves, a burial tradition with deep Irish roots. These unique grave structures are most commonly found in the Eastern Cumberland Rim counties of Tennessee, brought by early settlers migrating from other states and countries. In Ireland, the term “comb” is still used to describe the uneven slope of a thatched roof, where one side extends higher than the other—a design mirrored in these historic graves.



**23.** Not long after Fentress County was established, **Isaac Stockton** settled in an area known as Erwin Lot before moving seven miles east of Jamestown, where he raised his family. The cemetery now bears the name of his son, **Ben R. Stockton**.

How old was Ben when Isaac passed away? \_\_\_\_\_

**24.** Among those buried here is **Joseph Kelley “Joe” Stockton**, a direct descendant of Richard Stockton (1730–1781)—a Founding Father, New Jersey Representative to the Continental Congress, and signer of the Declaration of Independence. Joe’s grave is one of several comb graves in the cemetery.

What purpose do you think this grave style was intended to serve? \_\_\_\_\_

**25.** Another notable figure laid to rest here is **Kate Ella Bradford Stockton**, wife of Joseph Kelley Stockton.

Both were deeply involved in local and state politics, but Kate’s legacy is particularly significant—she was the first woman to run for Governor of Tennessee in 1936. A fierce advocate for women’s suffrage, she championed the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote in 1920—a milestone for which Tennessee cast the deciding vote to ratify the Constitution.

Given this, how many elections did she live through?

\_\_\_\_\_



Kate Stockton. Source: TN State Library and Archives



Thank you for completing the 2025 Cemetery Quest. Cemeteries are a physical connection to the past and Decoration Day is a time to honor the lives of those who rest there. Please return this booklet and any trash that you have collected (or take a picture of your bag of trash) to the Bandy Creek Visitor Center at 151 Stable Road, Oneida, TN 37841 before 4:00 PM (ET) on May 31 to receive your 2025 Decoration Day Cemetery Quest Patch.

This completed booklet can potentially count 25 points toward the GO BIG 2025 Challenge. Pick up your GO BIG 2025 Challenge book at Bandy Creek Visitor Center.

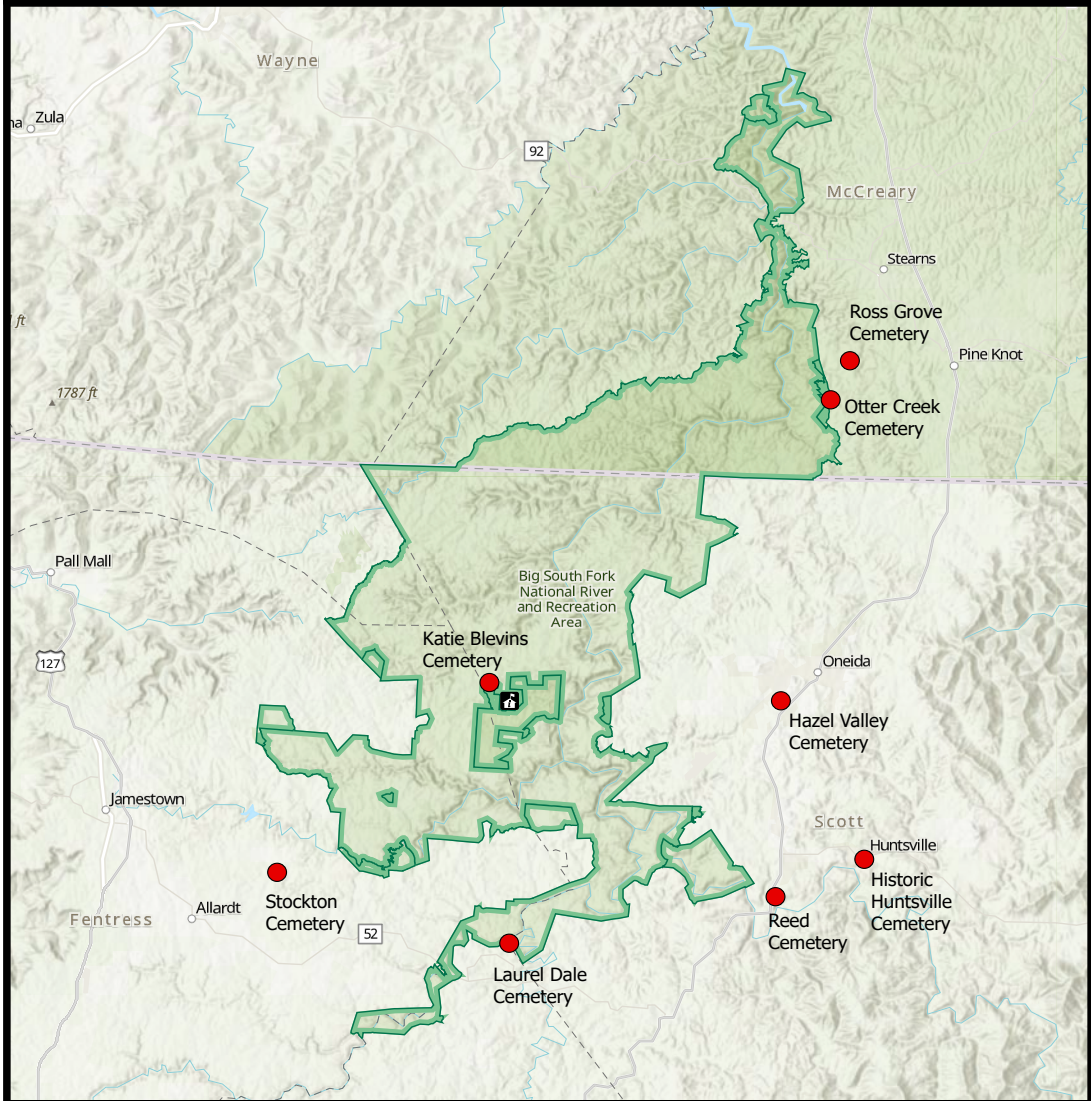
For more information about cemeteries in Big South Fork NRRA, visit [www.nps.gov/biso/learn/historyculture/cemeteries](http://www.nps.gov/biso/learn/historyculture/cemeteries)



1930s funeral. (left to right) Clona King Burke; Dophia Burke Winchester; Nancy Thomas King; Nancy Phillips Marcum; Wilda Phillips Burke. Source: from the Tressa King Burke photo collection



## Decoration Day Cemetery Quest 2023 Overview



Produced by BISO GIS Office  
PCS: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

April 2025



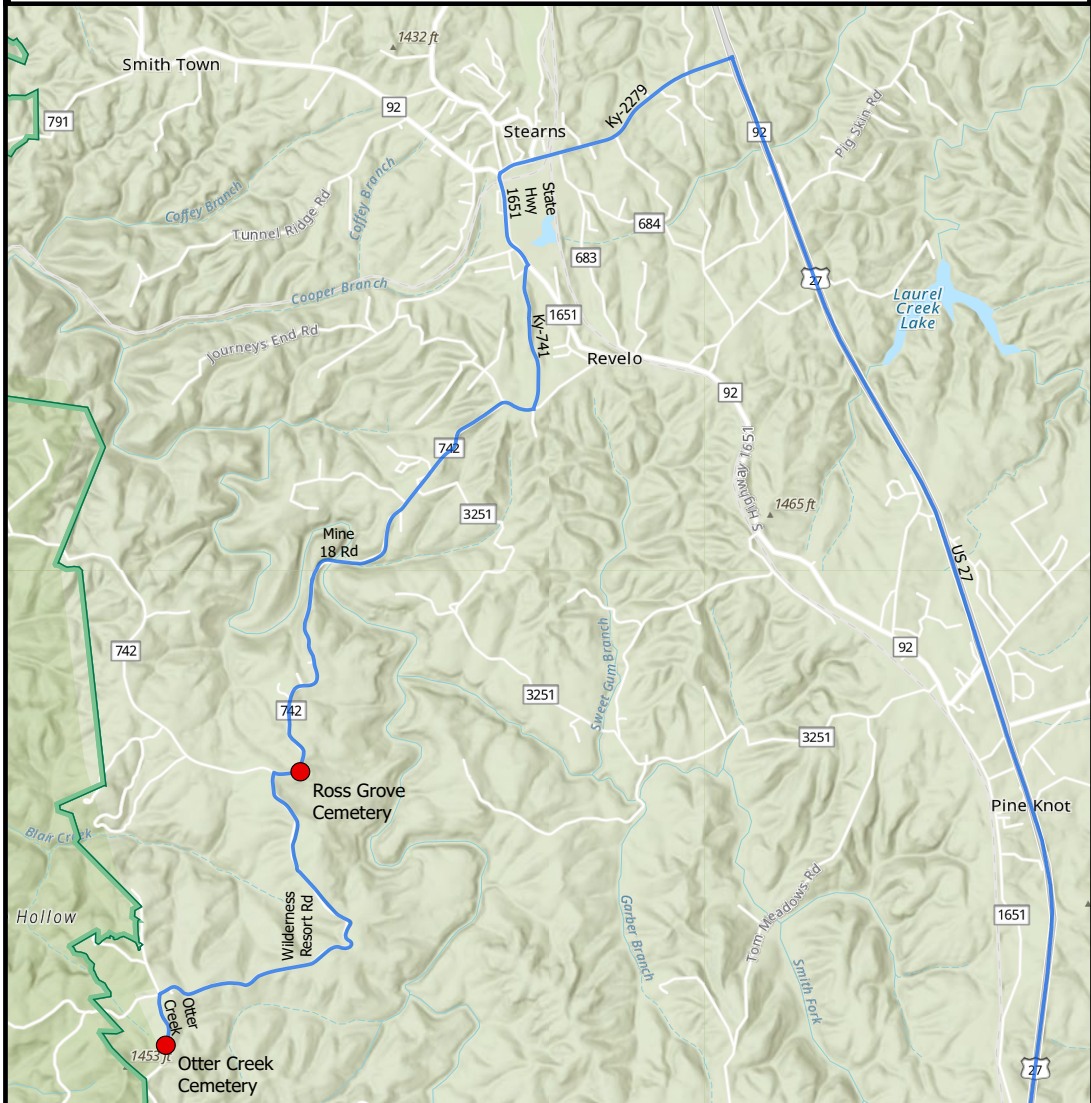
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- Cemeteries
- Bandy Creek Visitor Center
- Park Boundary
- Park Boundary

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## Decoration Day Cemetery Quest 2025 North Cemeteries



Produced by BISO GIS Office  
PCS: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

April 2025



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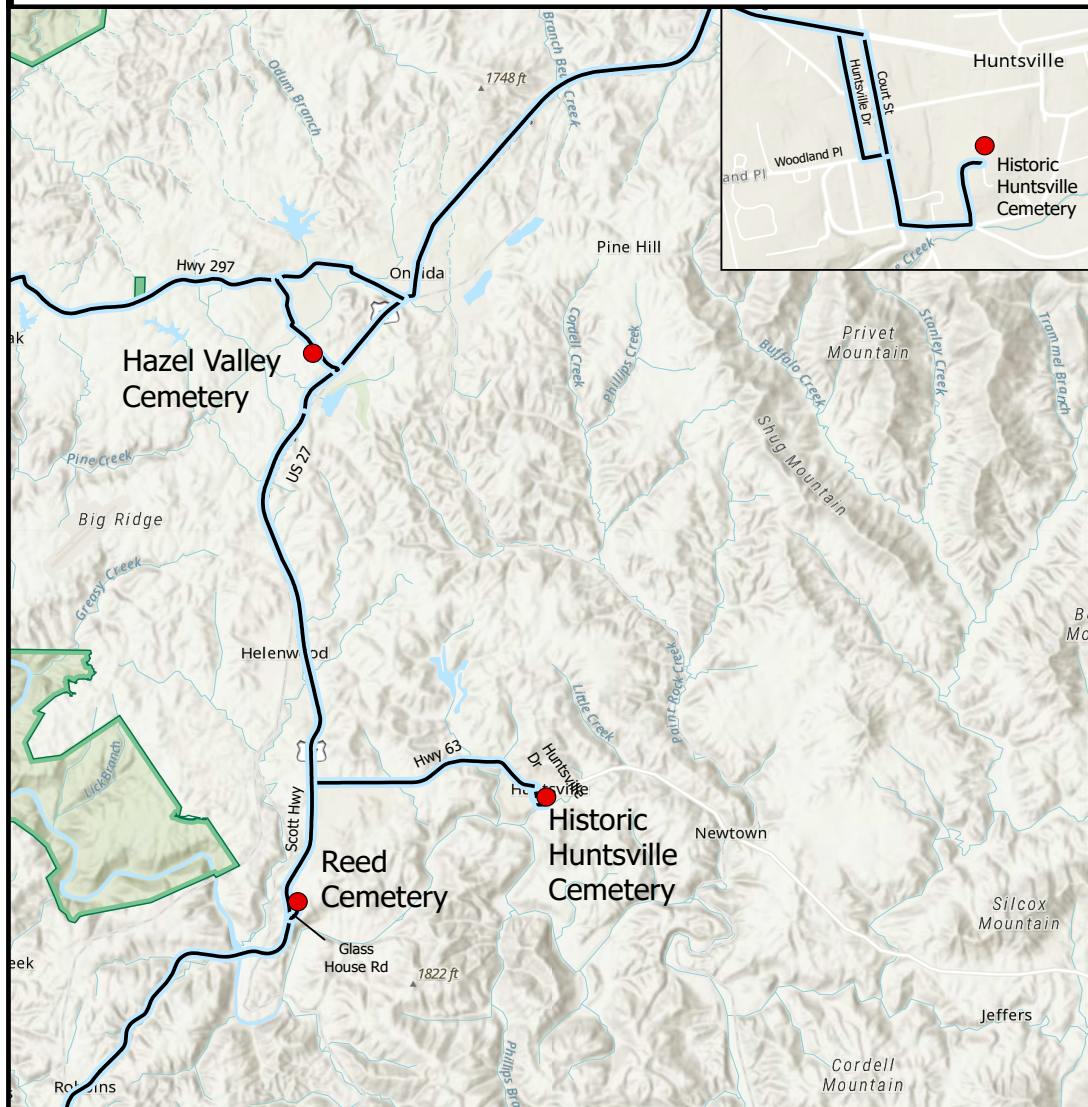
- Cemeteries
- Cemetery Access Routes
- Park Boundary

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## Decoration Day Cemetery Quest 2025 East Cemeteries



Produced by BISO GIS Office  
PCS: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

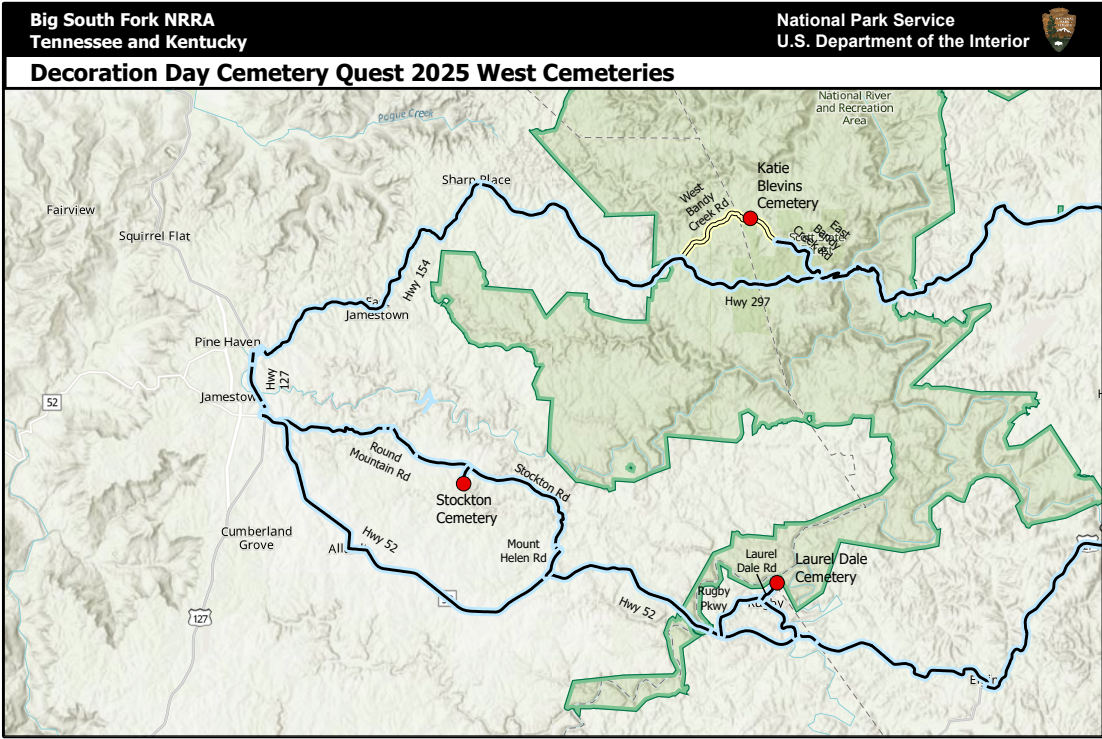
April 2025



0 1 2  
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● Cemeteries  
 Cemetery Access Routes  
 — Paved

▭ Park Boundary  
▭ Park Boundary



Big South Fork NRA  
Tennessee and Kentucky

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Decoration Day Cemetery Quest 2025 Cemetery GPS Coordinates		
Cemetery Name	Latitude	Longitude
Katie Blevins Cemetery	36.49671032	-84.70934218
Laurel Dale Cemetery	36.36875763	-84.69769721
Otter Creek Cemetery	36.63523261	-84.5082507
Ross Grove Cemetery	36.65435444	-84.49692599
Reed Cemetery	36.39161826	-84.54076023
Hazel Valley Cemetery	36.48775	-84.53759
Stockton Cemetery	36.40357818	-84.83445443
Historic Huntsville Cemetery	36.40998	-84.48846
WGS 1984 Web Mercator Coordinate System		



## Rules for the 2025 Decoration Day Cemetery Quest

1. The quest begins at Bandy Creek Visitor Center on May 3 and will last until May 31. If you plan to finish the Cemetery Quest on May 3, you must return this packet to Bandy Creek Visitor Center by 4:00 PM (ET). All packets must be returned by May 31 to receive the Quest Patch.
2. You will receive 10 extra points for finishing the Cemetery Quest on May 3.
3. The packet will be available for download on the Big South Fork NRRRA Facebook page at 9:00 am (ET) or a copy can be picked up at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center at 151 Stable Road, Oneida, TN 37841, at 9:00 AM (ET) on May 3.
4. Be aware that many of the cemeteries are located in the back country. It is advised that you drive a vehicle with some clearance underneath. ATVs and other off road vehicles are not allowed.
5. Participants may complete the packet individually or in teams. Teams cannot split up.
6. These cemeteries are the final resting places of the people who called Big South Fork home. Please treat these historic sites with respect.
7. Tombstones may be simple field stones (with or without inscriptions), historic commercial gravestones, or modern granite or marble tombstones. Historic tombstones may be loose or fragile. NOTE: Gravestone rubbings ARE NOT permitted.
8. Do not remove gravestones, walk, sit, or lean on grave plots or tombstones.
9. Practice the principles of Leave No Trace and take only photos, information, and memories with you when you leave. Do not remove anything from grave plots or stones.
10. If a cemetery has a gate, please close the gate when you depart.
11. Cemetery parking lots may be small. Parking along the roadside may be necessary. Please park in a safe manner that does not block traffic.
12. Always act in a safe manner and follow the rules and regulations of Big South Fork NRRRA.

