

People Buried in the Spencer Martin Cemetery

Wayland, Kentucky

**Research and write-up by
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Note: you can find all research sources in the Community Remembrance Project Google Drive:

<https://qrco.de/SpencerMartin>



Dedicated to the memory of those whose stories were not preserved to be recorded here.

Your names may have been erased, but your legacy survives.

Rest well, rest remembered.

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Known Burials (Marked)

Spencer Martin: between 1842 - November 15, 1910
Luke H. Payne: March 3, 1880 - February 19, 1935
Amelia (Samuels) Shuford: August 4, 1886 - July 11, 1961
Otis Robert Reeves: April 13 or 14, between 1887 and 1890 - November 19, 1958
Laura (Robinson) Neal: July 16, 1889 or 1890 - April 23, 1952
Jack Moore: June 15 between 1888 and 1891 - May 26, 1948
Shelley S Martin: March 1, 1895 - May 21, 1938
Willie L. Lewis: October 5, 1918 - February 7, 1947
James Moss, Jr: December 23, 1927 - November 19, 1948

Known Burials (Unmarked)

Carter Martin: about 1845 - December 31, 1924
George Martin: about 1864 - February 18, 1938
Belle (Martin) Williams: about 1863 - December 18, 1943
Watson Lewis: July 12, 1880 - July 29, 1953
William Randolph: between 1882 and 1884 - October 18, 1925
Martha (Neal) Duke: August 25, 1890 - December 9, 1936
Edgar "Ed" Burgess: March 6, 1891 - April 25, 1925
Tina "Tiny" (Martin) Ray: October 31, 1900 - October 13, 1939
Gallie Burgess: June 22, 1916 - June 23, 1916
Margarete Owens: June 3, 1925 - December 1, 1925
Corina Jackson: August 17, 1927 - September 13, 1927

Likely Burials (Unmarked)

Ellen Branham-Woodard: April 12, 1951 - February 3, 1942
Emma (Kelley) Gear: 1872 - October 30, 1947
Robert Henry Neal: July 4, 1882 - January 1, 1941
Mattie (Martin) Green: June 23, 1902 - February 6, 1944
Barbara Elizabeth Neal: April 13, 1917 - May 27, 1940
Shirley Ann Lewis: December 14, 1942 - May 6, 1944

Possible Burials (Unmarked)

John Farmer: October 1872 - August 9, 1935

Mary (Moss) Echols: about 1874 - July 26, 1939

John W O'Hannon: May 29, 1881 - September 4, 1947

Virgil Nesby: June 18, 1884 - April 1, 1940

William "Willie" Pym Padgett: about 1888 or 1889 - May 4, 1945

Earnest Sanders: August 27, 1924 - November 4, 1924

Preface

"Hear the voices of those who yet lie underground, their stories left untold." - Emily Hudson

The Spencer Martin Cemetery is situated on a wooded hillside on Steele's Creek in Wayland, Kentucky. Before the Civil War, the land on Steele's Creek was part of a plantation owned by John Martin, a wealthy Wayland merchant and farmer who used the stolen labor, knowledge, and skills of enslaved Black men and women to enrich himself. Spencer Martin and his family were enslaved there. After the war Spencer gained possession of the Steele's Creek land, including the cemetery. His is the oldest of the cemetery's marked burials, and it is from him that the cemetery takes its name.

The documented burials in the cemetery date between 1910 and 1961. It is impossible to know everyone who was buried in the cemetery due to the incomplete nature of older records. Before keeping official records became mandatory, deaths were often only recorded by churches or families, and many of those records have been lost or are not publicly available. More recent records also tend to be unavailable due to privacy concerns. It is likely that the cemetery was in use much earlier than 1910, and was possibly in use later than 1961, although there is no way to confirm either.

The present condition of the cemetery makes it difficult to say exactly how many individuals were laid to rest there, but at least 30 graves can be counted. Only nine of these are marked with traditional gravestones bearing the names of the deceased. Most of the remaining graves are marked with simple fieldstones. Some are marked by plants such as yucca and periwinkle that were traditionally used as grave markers by enslaved people. Some graves may have once had wooden markers that no longer survive, or stone markers that have sunk underground and are no longer visible.

It is impossible to know the name of every person buried in the cemetery. However, by examining documentation such as death certificates, obituaries, etc. it is possible to make some educated guesses on who was laid to rest there.

Known burials have either a marker in the cemetery bearing the name of the person, or some record of burial. Some of the burial records list the Spencer Martin cemetery by name, and others have George Martin acting as undertaker for the person. Likely burials are people whose graves are not marked and whose exact resting place was not noted, but who were buried in Wayland and had a connection to someone known to be buried in the cemetery. Possible burials are people who were buried in Wayland during the period when the cemetery was in use and are not known to be buried elsewhere. The Spencer Martin Cemetery is one of two known Black cemeteries in Wayland dating to this period, and the other is a small family cemetery with very few burials. It is likely that any Black person buried in Wayland during this time was buried at the Spencer Martin Cemetery.

It is important to note that the stories told here are only of the people whose death or burial were documented. There were others in Wayland, especially those who were enslaved, whose lives and deaths went largely undocumented. We honor their memories, written and unwritten. Some of those people include:

- Eliza Martin
- Celia Martin
- Julia Martin
- Isaac (last name unknown, possibly Martin)
- Pearl (last name unknown, possibly Martin)
- an unnamed Black woman, aged 33 in 1850
- an unnamed Black man, aged 30 in 1850
- an unnamed Black woman, aged 25 in 1850
- an unnamed Black boy, aged 3 in 1850
- an unnamed Black girl, aged 1 in 1850

Spencer Martin

Spencer Martin was born sometime between 1836 and 1846, likely in 1842. His parentage was not documented but his mother was likely Eliza Martin. Spencer was enslaved from birth. How and when Spencer gained his emancipation was not recorded, but he was likely emancipated during or after the Civil War.

Sometime after emancipation Spencer acquired the Steele's Creek plantation where he had previously been enslaved. There he set up his own farm where he spent the rest of his life. He had no recorded spouse or children, but he was not without family; his siblings, nieces, and nephews lived with him at various times over the years. Spencer never learned to read or write, but despite this he was a successful farmer. The goods produced by his farm were valued at \$600 in 1870 (about \$14,647 today), and \$715 in 1880 (about \$22,417 today). He raised cows, pigs, sheep, and poultry, and grew a variety of crops including wheat, corn, oats, beans, and potatoes. His farm also produced molasses and honey.

Spencer Martin died on November 15, 1910 at around 68 years of age. His grave is in the center of the cemetery and is marked with a marble stone.

Carter Martin

Carter Martin was born around 1845 to mother Eliza Martin. His father's identity was not recorded, but may have been John Martin or another member of the white Martin family. Carter was enslaved from birth. How and when Carter gained his emancipation was not recorded, but he was likely emancipated during or after the Civil War.

After emancipation Carter lived on his brother Spencer's farm with their siblings Celia and Julia, as well as several nieces and nephews. No record of Carter marrying or having children was found. After the death of his brother Spencer in 1910, Carter continued to run the family farm until the end of his life.

Carter was around 79 years of age when he passed away from pneumonia on December 31, 1924. There is no known marker for Carter in the cemetery.

Belle (Martin) Williams

Belle Martin was born around 1863. Her full name may have been Mary Belle Martin. Her parentage was not documented but her mother was likely either Celia or Julia Martin, the sisters of Spencer Martin. Her father may have been John Martin or another member of the white Martin family. Belle was likely enslaved from birth. How and when Belle gained her emancipation was not recorded, but she was likely emancipated during or after the Civil War.

After emancipation Belle lived with her uncles Spencer and Carter Martin on Spencer's farm. She never attended school. After Spencer's death, Belle continued to live with her uncle Carter until his death in 1924. She sometimes worked outside their home as a domestic servant.

In 1927 at the age of around 64 Belle married Keen Williams, a man of a similar age. Unfortunately, Belle was widowed within only a few years. After the death of her husband, Belle cared for her relative Shelley Martin's daughter Marie.

Belle passed away due to age-related dementia on December 18, 1943 at around 80 years of age. There is no known marker in the cemetery for Belle.

George Martin

George Martin was born around 1864 in Floyd County. His parentage was not reliably documented, but he was likely the son of Celia Martin. He likely had a sister named Elizabeth, and a cousin named Belle. George was likely enslaved from birth. George likely gained emancipation during or after the civil war.



He grew up with his siblings, mother, aunt, and uncles on his uncle Spencer's farm. As a young man George worked on Spencer's farm and eventually had his own farm next to his uncle's.

George married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Williams on March 29, 1894. Their first child, a son named Shelley, was born one year later. Seven daughters followed: Artie, Gracie, Goldie, Tina, Mattie, Garnet, and Lilie. In addition to tending his farm, George sometimes also acted as undertaker for the Black community of Wayland.

It was during George's lifetime that individuals outside of the Martin family began being buried in the cemetery. The first of these burials were the infant children of Black miners living in Wayland's growing coal camps. Most of the Black miners in Wayland came from out of state, mainly from Alabama. They were near strangers, but George made sure their babies were buried like family. These actions and other elements of his character left an impression on George's children who clearly loved and respected him, a fact made clear by the four grandchildren who were named after him.

George passed away on February 18, 1938 at the age of around 74, possibly due to complications of high blood pressure. There is no known marker for George in the cemetery.

Shelley S Martin

Shelley Martin was born in Wayland on March 1st, 1895 to parents George and Lizzie Martin. He spent his childhood living with his parents and sisters on his father's farm in Allen. As he got older, he began working on the family farm.

In 1915 Shelley married Ida Belle Amy in Prestonsburg. They had one child, George Russell Martin, who was born in 1917. At some point before 1923, Shelley and Ida Belle divorced.

At some point before 1917 Shelley lost both of his eyes. No record could be found of how this happened. His disability did not prevent Shelley from working in the coal mines as a teamster. His WWI draft card described him as being of medium height and build, though he became larger in his later years.

On March 19, 1923 Shelley married Anna Gales in Wayland. The marriage was short-lived, and Shelley remarried on October 4, 1923 to Sylvia Sanders. He also gave his last name to Sylvia's two children, Leanna and Woodrow.

In 1924 Shelley had a daughter named Marie Martin. Marie's mother was Rosa Hicks, a member of the Hicks family who were neighbors to the Martins. No record was found of a marriage between Rosa and Shelley.

Shelley died suddenly at the age of 43 at his home in Wayland on May 21, 1938 from hemorrhage caused by acute indigestion and vomiting. His grave is marked with a flat rectangular stone.

William Randolph

William Randolph was born in Virginia between 1882 and 1884 to parents Bowling and Amanda Randolph. Little information was found about his early life.

By 1915 William was working as a coal miner in Wayland. On May 25, 1915 he married 17-year-old Artie Ann Martin. They welcomed their first child, a daughter named Georgia, on August 22 of the same year. Their son George followed on November 28, 1916. The family lived in Wayland next door to Artie's father George Martin.

William passed away from chronic kidney disease on October 18, 1925. There is no known marker for him in the cemetery.

Ellen Branham-Woodard

Ellen Woodard was born in South Carolina on April 12, 1851 to parents Gabel Tialavel and Sarah Brown. Little information was found about her early life. Based on her date of birth it is possible she was enslaved. She attended school through fifth grade, but did not learn to read or write.

At some point Ellen married Willis Branham. They had at least two children together, sons Willard and Marton. At some point Ellen was widowed or divorced. By 1920 she had remarried to a man named George Woodard. The couple moved to Ty Ty, Georgia where George worked in a sawmill and Ellen worked as a cook.

The couple eventually moved to Wayland, where they lived with Ellen's son Willard and his family. Willard married George Martin's daughter Gracie, and the two had eight children together. Eventually Ellen was widowed and moved in with her grandson Marton and his wife.

Ellen passed away at age 90 on February 3, 1942 following a stroke. There is no known marker for Ellen in the cemetery.

Tina “Tiny” (Martin) Ray

Tina “Tiny” Martin was born on October 30, 1900 to parents George and Lizzie Martin. She grew up with her eight siblings on her family’s farm in Wayland. She went by the nickname “Tiny”.

Tina was working as a cook in Wayland when she met Ed Burgess. Tina gave birth to their daughter Gallie Burgess on June 22, 1916. Sadly, Gallie passed away one day after birth from unknown causes. Tina and Ed were married on July 4th, 1916. Their marriage lasted nine years until Ed’s death by homicide on April 25, 1925.

After the death of her husband Ed, Tina lived with her sister Garnet and helped raise Garnet’s children. Garnet’s youngest daughter was named after Tina. While living with her sister Tina met Carl Ray. Ray and his brother were lodgers in Garnet’s home. Tina and Carl married on September 4, 1930. The two did not have children, but the marriage was a happy one. Carl was close to Tina’s family, and helped raise Tina’s nieces and nephews even after Tina’s death.

Tina passed away from liver cancer on October 13, 1939, just before her 39th birthday. There is no known marker for Tina in the cemetery.

Edgar “Ed” Burgess

Edgar “Ed” Burgess was born on March 6, 1891 in Charlottesville, Virginia to parents Harry and Betsy Burgess. He spent his childhood in Albemarle County, Virginia where he lived with his parents and his sister.

Ed moved to Wayland where he worked as a cook. There he met Tina Martin, who was also working as a cook at the time. They had one child together, a daughter named Gallie who was born on June 22, 1916. Sadly, Gallie passed away from unknown causes only one day after birth. Ed and Tina were married on July 4, 1916. Ed was also friends with Tina’s brother Shelley Martin and acted as surety on the marriage bond at Shelley’s first wedding.

Ed was working as a miner for the Elkhorn Coal Corporation in 1917 when he registered for the WWI draft. His draft registration card described him as “tall and slender” with black hair and black eyes. In October 1918 Ed reported to Camp Lee, Virginia for duty with the 347th Service Battalion and left for Saint-Nazaire, France. During his service Ed spent time on board the USS *Martha Washington* and the SS *Kroonland*. He returned home in June 1919.

Ed Burgess died at the age of 33 in Wayland on April 25, 1925 as a result of homicide by gunshot. There is no known marker for Ed in the cemetery.

Gallie Burgess

Gallie Burgess was born in Wayland on June 22, 1916 to parents Edgar “Ed” Burgess and Tina Martin.

She passed away from unknown causes at one day old on June 23, 1916. There is no known marker for Gallie in the cemetery.

Mattie (Martin) Green



Mattie Martin was born in Wayland on June 23, 1902 to parents George and Lizzie Martin. She grew up on her family’s farm in Wayland with her parents and siblings. She attended school through the second grade and learned to read and write.

In 1919 Mattie married Ed Curtis in Wise, Virginia, but the marriage was short-lived. Mattie married Charlie Green in 1922.

Mattie's first child Waymond Green was born on July 16, 1920. She and Charlie went on to have eleven more children: Welmon, Kizzie, Willie, Dora, Evelyn, Gladys, Fred, Ted, Bertha, and Earnest. She lived with her husband and children in Letcher County where Charlie worked as a miner.

In her late twenties Mattie began suffering from cardiac issues. She passed away from heart failure caused by malignant hypertension on February 6, 1944 at the age of 41. There is no known marker for Mattie in the cemetery.

James Moss, Jr.

James Moss, Jr. was born on December 23, 1927 to parents James Moss, Sr. and Garnett (Martin) Moss in Wayland. He was one of four siblings and had a brother and two sisters. Sadly, James's father died before James reached his second birthday. After his father's death, James and his siblings lived with his mother, his aunt Tina Martin, and lodgers Carl and Russell Ray. He attended school while living in Wayland.

James's mother Garnett eventually remarried to a miner named Sam Horn. After the marriage, Garnett and her two middle children lived with Sam and his children from his first marriage. James lived down the street from them with his widowed uncle Carl Ray and two of his aunts.

James was living in Queens, New York working for Crawford Clothes when he registered for the draft in 1945. His draft card described him as 5 feet 11 inches tall and 145 pounds, with brown eyes, black hair, and a dark brown complexion. He had a small pock mark on the left side of his face. James enlisted on April 25, 1946 and served for one year as a Private First Class in Company B of the 97th Engineers General Service Battalion. The 97th Engineers was an all-Black construction crew under the United States Army Corps of Engineers. During the period James was enlisted, the 97th Engineers worked on the construction of the Camp Angeles complex near Clark Air Base in the Philippines. James was honorably discharged from service on April 28, 1947.

After returning from his military service, James moved to Pikeville where he worked as a hotel janitor. At some point he married Octavia (Davidson) Moss. On November 15th, 1948 James was involved in an automobile accident where he sustained serious injuries to his neck. He developed pneumonia due to complications from his injuries and passed away at the VA hospital in Huntington, West Virginia on November 19, 1948, a month before his 21st birthday.

His grave in the cemetery is marked by a flat marble military-issue headstone.

Laura (Robinson) Neal

Laura Robinson was born in Jefferson County, Alabama on July 16, 1889 or 1890 to parents Mack and Georgiann “Annie” Robinson. She attended school in Jefferson County until fifth grade and learned to read and write. In 1910 Laura married Addicus Davidson, a coal miner. The marriage ended in divorce after only a few years.

By 1917 Laura had married Henry Neal, a coal miner from Jefferson County, Alabama. Their daughter Barbara Elizabeth was born March 24 of that year. By 1930 the family had moved to the coal camp in Wayland where Henry worked in the mines. They continued to live here with their daughter, grandchildren, Laura’s mother Annie, and several lodgers.

After losing her daughter in 1940 and her husband in 1941, Laura, her mother, and her grandchildren moved to Pike County. Laura supported the family by working as a cook and housekeeper in private homes in the area.

Laura passed away on April 23, 1952 at around 62 years of age. No death certificate or obituary could be found for her. Her grave in the cemetery is marked by a small metal sign.

Robert Henry Neal

Robert Henry Neal was born in Haralson County, Georgia on July 4, 1882 to parents Robert and Susan Neal. He typically went by his middle name, Henry. He had at least one sister, Martha Neal (later Martha Duke). He attended school through the fourth grade. Little additional information was found about his early life.

As a young man Henry moved to Jefferson County, Alabama where he worked as an ore miner. This was also where he met his wife Laura Neal. In 1918 Henry registered for the WWI draft, but did not serve in the war. During this time, he was described as medium height and build, with dark hair and dark eyes.

In 1917 Henry and his wife welcomed their first child, a daughter named Barbara Elizabeth. Soon after, the family moved to Wayland where Henry continued to work as a miner. Henry's mother-in-law came to live with the family and they also took in lodgers.

In 1935 Henry and his family welcomed a new addition, a grandson named Eugene. Sadly, only a few years later Henry's daughter Barbara passed away from a heart condition at only 23 years old. Henry himself passed less than a year later on January 1, 1941 from tuberculosis. There is no known marker for Henry in the cemetery.

Barbara Elizabeth Neal

Barbara Elizabeth Neal was born in Jefferson County, Alabama on April 13, 1917 to parents Laura and Robert Henry Neal. Barbara was her parents' only child.

As a child Barbara attended school until second grade. When Barbara was young, her family moved to Wayland where her father worked in the coal mines. They lived in the coal camp there, down the street from the Shuford and Lewis families.

At age 19 Barbara welcomed her first child, a son named Eugene Tompson. Barbara and her son continued to live with her parents, along with Barbara's maternal grandmother and several lodgers.

Barbara passed away on May 27, 1940 at the age of 23 due to sudden cardiac failure. There is no known marker for Barbara in the cemetery.

Martha (Neal) Duke

Martha Neal was born on August 25, 1890 in Haralson County, Georgia to parents Robert and Susan Neal. She had at least one brother, Robert Henry Neal. Little information was found about her life.

She was married to a man named Charles Duke, who predeceased her. She worked as a housekeeper.

Martha Duke passed away on December 9th, 1936 from uterine cancer. There is no known marker for Martha in the cemetery.

Emma (Kelley) Gear

Emma Kelley was born in Danville, Virginia around 1872. The identity of her parents was not recorded. She spent her childhood in the home of her grandmother Ridda Kelley, and attended school through the first grade.

In 1910 Emma was living in Lynchburg, Virginia when she married Leaston Gear, a railroad worker from North Carolina. By 1920 the couple had moved to Wayland where Leaston worked as a coal miner. During this period the couple also housed several lodgers, including Garnet Martin's future husband James Moss. Emma and her husband eventually moved to Jenkins, where Emma worked as a cook in a local home.

In 1933 Leaston passed away from kidney failure caused by extreme high blood pressure. He was laid to rest in Jenkins. After her husband's death Emma returned to Wayland where she lived with Laura Neal and her family. When the Neal family eventually moved to Pike County, Emma moved with them.

Emma passed away on October 30, 1947, at age 75 due to heart disease caused by high blood pressure. There is no known marker for Emma in the cemetery.

Watson Lewis

Watson Lewis was born in Montgomery, Alabama on July 12, 1880 to parents Peyton Lewis and Sarah Bibbs Lewis. He was one of nine children and had one brother and seven sisters. He attended school through the fourth grade, but did not learn to read or write.

In 1907 he married a woman named Mary Jones in Birmingham, Alabama. Three years later Watson and Mary were living apart, with Watson living as a lodger in Birmingham and working as a day laborer. Mary died later that year.

Sometime after the death of his first wife, Watson moved to east Kentucky. Watson was living in Jenkins working as a coal miner in 1918 when he married Alice (Stroud) Morris. Watson and Alice had two children together, Willie and Elva "L.V." Lewis. They also raised Alice's children from her first marriage, Fannie and Lonnie Morris-Lewis.

Watson worked as a coal miner for the rest of his career in Jenkins, Wheelwright, and Wayland. Watson was working for the Elkhorn Coal Corp in Wayland when he registered for the World War II draft. He did not serve in the war, likely due to his age. His draft card described him as 5 feet 7 inches tall and 145 pounds, with a dark complexion, black eyes, and black hair.

Sometime between 1942 and 1950 Watson retired and remained in Wayland until the end of his life. Watson Lewis passed away at the age of 73 from a cardiovascular condition on July 29th, 1953. There is no known marker for Watson in the cemetery.

Willie L Lewis

Willie Lewis was born in Letcher County on October 5, 1918 to parents Watson Lewis and Alice Stroud-Lewis. He spent his youth living with his parents and three sisters in Jenkins and Wheelwright. There he attended school through the eighth grade.

Willie registered for the draft in 1940. His draft card described him as 5 feet 8 inches tall and 152 pounds, with black hair, black eyes, and a dark complexion.

Willie was working as a coal miner for the Elkhorn Coal Corp in Wayland when he married Georgia Mae Walton on March 13th, 1939. Their first daughter Barbara was born on September 4, 1939. Willie and his family lived with Georgia Mae's parents in Wayland. On December 14, 1942 Willie and Georgia welcomed their second daughter Shirley Ann Lewis. Sadly, Shirley passed away from tuberculosis on May 6, 1944.

Willie also contracted the same illness around this time, and by 1947 he was receiving treatment at a sanitarium in Ithaca, NY. He died there at the age of 28 from tuberculosis on February 7th, 1947, and his body was transported back home to Wayland for burial. His grave is marked with a stone bearing the seal of the United Mine Workers of America Local No. 5895.

Shirley Ann Lewis

Shirley Ann Lewis was born on December 14th, 1942 to parents Willie L. Lewis and Georgia Mae (Walton) Lewis of Wayland. She had one older sister, Barbara Jean Lewis. Shirley passed away at only 16 months old from tuberculosis on May 6th, 1944.

There is no known marker for Shirley in the cemetery.

John Farmer

John Farmer was born in Charlotte County, Virginia in October 1872 to parents James and Amanda Farmer. He grew up on his father's farm with at least five siblings: three sisters and two brothers.

At some point John moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He married Ophelia Williams there on April 19, 1899. John worked in Philadelphia as a day laborer, and the couple also housed lodgers.

By 1930 John was living in Wayland with his young son Lamar and several lodgers. John worked first as a coal miner, and then as a sanitary inspector.

John passed away on August 9, 1935 at the age of 62 from a broken neck. The cause of his injury was not recorded, but may have been a mining accident. There is no known marker for John in the cemetery.

Mary (Moss) Echols

Mary Moss was born in Alabama around 1874 to parents Burrel and Betsie Moss. It was not recorded if Mary was related to Garnet Martin's first husband James Moss, Sr. Few records of Mary's early life were found.

Around 1892 Mary married Henry Echols. They had at least one child together, a daughter named Juanita born around 1909. In 1924 Juanita married James Dezebel Crittenden. By 1930 Juanita and James were living in Wayland where James worked as a coal miner. Mary also moved to Wayland at some point, possibly to live with her daughter and son-in-law.

Mary passed away following a stroke caused by a brain bleed on July 26, 1939 at around 65 years of age. There is no known marker for Mary in the cemetery.

Luke H. Payne

Luke Payne was born in Alabama on March 3, 1880. No information was found about his early life.

In 1930 Luke lived with his wife Lakie Payne in Haymond, Letcher County, Kentucky. He worked as a laborer in the coal mines there.

Luke Payne died at the age of 54 on February 19, 1935 after sustaining severe injuries from a slate fall in the mine. His grave in the cemetery is marked by a small, standing marble stone.

John W O'Hannon

John W O'Hannon was born in Asheville, North Carolina Between 1881 and 1884 to parents Jacob and Fannie O'Hannon. He was the oldest of at least seven children, with three brothers and three sisters. As a young man he worked with his father as a farm laborer.

John married Carrie L Morris. Together they had two daughters, Katherine and Christine, and also kept a German shepherd dog. The couple lived in West Virginia for a while before finally settling in Wayland where John worked as a coal miner. John was active in the Wayland miners' union. Carrie was kind and well-liked by children in the neighborhood.

John passed away on September 4, 1947 from heart failure. There is no known marker for John in the cemetery.

Amelia (Samuels) Shuford

Amelia Samuels was born on August 4th, 1886 to parents Josephine and Philip Sampson Samuels. In 1900 she lived with her parents and siblings on their farm in Pintlala, Alabama.

Around 1908 she married George Shuford. Together the couple welcomed four children: three daughters named Corrie, Georgia, and Annie, and one son named Perry. Amelia lived with her husband, children, and brother-in-law until she was either divorced or widowed, sometime before 1927.

In 1927 she married Jim Hines in Birmingham, Alabama. She spent several years in Birmingham with her new husband, two youngest children, and stepdaughter Edna. By 1933 the family had moved to Floyd County. Her son Perry, a coal miner, was married in December of that year, and her daughter Annie was married two years later in April 1935. She became friends with the Lewis family during her years in Wayland and acted as a witness at Willie Lewis's wedding.

Amelia was divorced or widowed again sometime before 1940. She spent some years living in Wayland with her son's family before moving to Clinchco, Virginia where she lived with her daughter Georgia's family.

By 1961 Amelia had moved back to Floyd County and was living in Wheelwright. She died there from heart disease on July 11, 1961 at the age of 74. She is buried in the top left corner of the cemetery with a small metal sign to mark her grave.

Virgil Nesby

Virgil Nesby was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on June 18, 1884. He was one of at least two children, though no record was found of his parents or their identities. His brother was named Daniel Edward Nesby.

Virgil was living with his brother in Staub, Kentucky when they both registered for the draft in 1918. The brothers were both miners for the Hazard Jellico Coal Company. His draft card described him as being of medium height and build, with dark eyes and dark hair. At some point, Virgil moved to Wayland. He likely worked in the coal mines there. He had no recorded spouse or children.

While living in Wayland, Virgil became seriously ill due to cardiovascular disease and was likely bedbound for an extended period as a result. In March 1940, Virgil wrote his last will and testament and had it notarized. In it, he left all his possessions to his friend Lige Hixon, a coal miner who lived in the Wayland coal camp near several of the Martin children.

Virgil passed away at the age of 55 on April 1, 1940 due to hypostatic pneumonia caused by heart failure. There is no known marker for Virgil in the cemetery.

An excerpt from the last will and testament of Virgil Nesby:

“By this writing, my last Will and Testament, I hereby bequeath, grant, and give all my earthly belongings, of what-so-ever kind and in whatever condition, to my good friend Lige Hixon, who has tenderly cared for me during ill times as well as good.

I also wish to ask that Lige Hixon have charge and arrange for my burial when the Lord takes me away. I wish that he will arrange that all bills in that connection be paid.

*I also wish and desire that Lige Hixon receive any and all benefits due from the Social Security Administration, under which I am registered as Virgil Nesby, Number ***-***-****.*

It is my request that Lige Hixon be the Administrator of my estate and act as such without bond.

I declare that I am sound of mind, however my body is afflicted and I feel that the end is not far away.”

Otis Robert Reeves

Otis Robert Reeves was born in Alabama on April 13th or 14th, between 1887 and 1890. No records of his early life were found.

Otis married a woman named Wilma. Together they had at least one child, a son named Jetheroe born around 1920. By 1935 the family was living in Weeksbury. Otis and his son both worked as coal loaders for the Koppers Coal Company.

Otis was 5 feet 11 inches tall and 155 pounds when he registered for the draft in 1942. His draft registration noted a burn scar on his left leg, which he possibly sustained while working in the mines.

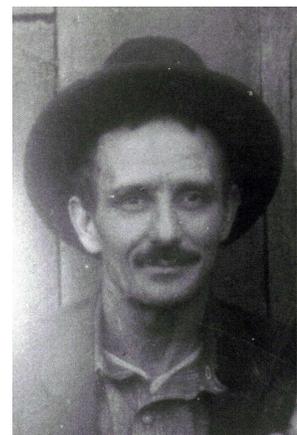
In his final years Otis suffered from congestive heart failure, as well as dementia caused by a type of brain degeneration called corticobasal syndrome. He passed away on November 19, 1958 at the age of around 71 at the Eastern State Hospital in Lexington.

His grave is in the bottom right corner of the cemetery and is marked by a granite stone carved with flowers and a Freemason symbol.

William “Willie” Pym Padgett

William Pym Padgett was born in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1888 or 1889 to parents Mack and Ida Padgett. He went by the nickname Willie. Willie was one of at least six children, with three brothers and two sisters. He attended school through the fifth grade.

As a young man Willie was described as medium height and slender, with brown eyes, black hair, and light brown skin. On January 23, 1916 Willie married Lena Harkins in Russell, Alabama. The couple moved to Bessemer where Willie worked as a miner. Together the couple had four children: three sons named Rufus, Frank, and Lee, and one daughter named Ida May after Willie’s mother.



Willie and his family eventually moved to Wayland where he continued to work as a miner. On February 11, 1929 his wife Lena passed away from influenza. Eventually Willie remarried, and he lived with his new wife Leola in Weeksbury, where he worked as a miner for the Koppers Coal Company.

Willie passed away on May 4, 1945 due to a blood clot in his heart caused by hardening of the arteries. He was around 57 years old. There is no known marker in the cemetery for Willie in the cemetery.

Jack Moore

Jack Moore was born near Atlanta, Georgia on June 15, sometime between 1888 and 1891, to parents Gill and Frances “Fannie” Moore. Jack was one of at least seven siblings. His parents passed when Jack was very young, leaving Jack and his siblings to be cared for by their older brother William. Jack grew up on the farm William owned near Statesboro, Georgia. Jack worked as a laborer on his brother’s farm after he left school.

By 1930 he was living in Wheelwright with his wife Fannie. He worked in the mines there for the Inland Steel Company for around 20 years. In 1942 Jack registered for the WWII draft. His draft card described him as 5 feet 11.5 inches tall and 180 pounds, with black hair, brown eyes, and a dark complexion. He died in Wheelwright on May 26, 1948 of heart disease at around 58 years of age.

Jack is buried in the bottom left corner of the cemetery. His grave is marked by a large stone bearing the seal of the United Mine Workers of America Local 5899.

Earnest Sanders

Earnest Sanders was born in Wayland on August 27, 1924 to parents Ed and Ella Sanders. Sadly, Earnest passed away on November 4, 1924 at only two months old from a gastrointestinal illness. There is no known marker for Earnest in the cemetery.

Margarete Owens

Margarete Owens was born on June 3, 1925 to parents Joe Owens and Anna Crumpler. She passed away from meningitis at the age of six months on December 1, 1925. George Martin acted as undertaker for Margarete's burial, though no connection between her family and the Martin family could be found. There is no known marker in the cemetery for Margarete.

Corina Jackson

Corina Jackson was born in Wayland on August 17, 1927 to parents Lewis and Martha Jackson. She had three older siblings, a sister named Albertine and two brothers named Curtis and Albert.

Corina passed away from inanition, a type of severe malnutrition, on September 13, 1927 at just 27 days old. No mention of intentional starvation was found; Corina's malnutrition was possibly caused by low breast milk supply, inadequate milk supplements (nutritionally complete infant formula was not available yet), or a medical condition that caused poor absorption. There is no known marker for Corina in the cemetery.