

THE JOHN RALSTON FAMILY CEMETERY

Visited December 8, 1973. This cemetery was located near the home of Mrs. George Boykin, 3125 Ward Road, approximately 1/2 mile west of Millington Road, south of Millington, Tennessee. The home is located about 300 yards south of Ward Road. The stone with the inscription shown below was approximately 200 yards west of the home in a pasture. A large stone base was nearby. Another stone base was located about 50 feet from Ward Road, approximately halfway between the inscribed stone and the home, but no headstone could be found. Mrs. Boykin told compilers their property deed made reference to a land grant to John Ralston who was an early surveyor.

Sacred to the memory of
John Ralston
Died Nov. 23, 1865,
Aged 78 years,
One of the pioneers of Shelby Co.
(Mnt. by) F.C. Venn, Memphis

The Commercial Appeal, News of Bygone Days, 125 years ago, March 11, 1850: "I have 160 1/2 acres in Shelby County on Big Creek 12 miles from Memphis, lying west of and adjoining S.S. Rembert's place. Also 1,297 acres west of Big Creek about 12 miles from Memphis. Apply to the subscriber who lives near the land. John Ralston."

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THE CHAMBERLAYNE JONES FAMILY CEMETERY

This cemetery was visited and inscriptions copied on December 8, 1973. The cemetery is located on the grounds of the Naval Air Station, Millington, Tennessee. It is on a small hill near the northwest corner of the base, approximately 1 and 1/4 miles north of the airfield tower. The compilers were granted permission to go on the property to copy the cemetery inscriptions, and were led to the general area by a Navy Police car. The nearest approach to the cemetery by hard-topped road appeared to be about one mile, and the compilers were preparing to start the walk when another Navy vehicle appeared. The compilers were then escorted and transported to and from the cemetery site by extremely courteous Navy personnel. The cemetery has been fenced in an approximate 30X30 foot square. It is approached by an old sunken dirt road from the east. A set of wooden steps climbs the bank of the road, and the cemetery gate opens a few feet to the south of the old road. The headstones face the east. The graves are covered with a smooth concrete type material made into sections approximately 2 1/2 feet in width and length, and about 6 inches high at a center apex which extends along the lengths of the graves. A rough map is on page 16.