

PASCO COUNTY: TOWNSEND HOUSE CEMETERY

The following cemetery record was copied, researched and contributed by Mrs. V. M. Smith, 933 Howell Ave., Brooksville, Fl. 33512.

The Townsend House Cemetery and the Church have a meeting each year in May. Many relatives and friends come from all parts of Florida each year. John Townsend was born in the Marlboro District of South Carolina in 1792. He married Nancy Leigh (Lee) in Georgia and moved to Benton County, Florida (now Hernando County). They appear on the 1850 Benton County census with their family. It is said that John & Nancy moved to Florida to be near his father, Light Townsend, who was also living in Benton County in 1850. Light was listed as age 80. It is said that Light Townsend is buried in an unmarked grave on his property not far from the Townsend House Cemetery.

Circuit Riding ministers held meetings at John Townsend's home, which was the start of the Townsend House Church and cemetery. Thus, it is a fitting tribute to "Captain Jack" John Townsend that a large stone be placed in the center of the old cemetery, under large spreading oak trees. Engraved on the stone:

Townsend

These pioneer leaders settled here in 1846 used their home as a meeting place for prayer and protection when Capt. Jack returned from the Indian Wars in 1856. He gave his home as the first Church in this section. Their lives were truly a light in the wilderness.

Capt. John TOWNSEND
1792 - 1868

Nancy TOWNSEND
1794 - 1868

Other listings in the Townsend Cemetery (some of older stones were difficult to read):

Caroline S. TOWNSEND, wife of H. W. HANCOCK July 7, 1829 - Feb. 19, 1910
Henry W. HANCOCK Sept. 19, 1822 - Jan. 18, 1895
J. Durrance HANCOCK Nov. 22, 1874 - Oct. 27, 1945
Mildred HANCOCK JONES 1897 - 1938
Ruby HANCOCK June 4, 1890 - July 11, 1891
Susie HANCOCK Feb. 9, 1899 - Feb. 15, 1900
Theda Elizabeth HANCOCK Sept. 12, 1931 - June 12, 1937
William Rufus DOUGLAS Dec. 22, 1882 - Sept. 26, 1942
Mamie E. DOUGLAS Mar. 4, 1877 - Dec. 11, 1949
Frank B. OSBORNE Feb. 16, 1880 - June 29, 1916
Thomas H. HANCOCK Dec. 13, 1850 - Jan. 23, 1919
Mary Margaret, wife of Thomas H. HANCOCK Jan. 17, 1854 - Dec. 28, 1925
Elephere Burnside LEIGH Mar. 12, 1894 - July 5, 1944
Lester LEIGH June 9, 1882 - Feb. 9, 1957 (In memory of - interred at Bradenton, Fla.)
James E. BURNSIDE 1845 - 1936
Emily GILLETTE BURNSIDE May 7, 1865 - May 30, 1929
Julia V., wife of W. L. McWHITE Jan. 24, 1874 - Oct. 19, 1903
Rev. R. J. BRADLEY Dec. 12, 1839 - Nov. 22, 1896
Nancy WIGGINS, wife of Capt. R. D. BRADLEY Dec. 25, 1816 - Sept. 14, 1896
Mrs. Mary W. SMITH Mother Apr. 6, 1825 - Sept. 4, 1904
John W. DARBY July 4, 1832 - Apr. 11, 1894
Mary DARBY Oct. 12, 1807 - June 22, 1898
Nancy WIGGINS BRADLEY Dec. 25, 1816 - Sept. 12, 1896 ??