

MEAD CEMETERY

Cemetery - Cowles Mead

Location - 1 mile northwest of Clinton, Mississippi

Copied by - Julius W. Melton, Jr., Clinton, Mississippi

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Sketch by - Jane Williams Melton - (Mrs. Julius W.)

Cowles Mead, born in Virginia and reared in Georgia, was the third secretary of the Mississippi Territory, and its acting governor from April 21, 1806 until February 6, 1807. He was very proud of the fact that, during the time he was acting governor, he arrested Aaron Burr and had the honor of receiving his surrendered sword. Burr was arrested in Claiborne County, Mississippi. Mead referred to this outstanding incident in his life so frequently that it became a joke among his friends.

1813 ?
In 1813 he built his plantation home, Greenwood, which stood in a beautiful lawn of 50 acres. This was located about one mile northwest of Mt. Salus, which later became Clinton, Mississippi. His home was destroyed in 1863, during the War between the States.

In April, 1807, he married Mary, daughter of Abner Green. Both were buried in the private burial ground on the plantation, as were his son, Cowles G. Mead, and his daughter, Mrs. Shearer. The daughter's tombstone has entirely disappeared, and there is now no indication of her grave. The town of Meadville, in Franklin County, Mississippi, was named for Cowles Mead.

At present the Cowles Mead cemetery is "up the railroad tracks" about one mile from Clinton, toward Bolton. The tombstones are easily reached from the tracks. (Back in the early 1900's, when amusements, as we know them now, were very scarce, a leisurely walk up the tracks to this cemetery was a favorite Sunday afternoon occupation of the young college students of Clinton). Cowles Mead's estate, Greenwood, was quite magnificent in the old days, containing a sunken garden and rare shrubs, which were kept by a gardener imported from England.

The place on which the cemetery is located is reached from the north, and "backs onto" the railroad. It is assumed that when this spot was chosen for a burying place the railroad had not been built, and it was in a less public spot. There are two shafts in the plot. Several years ago it was discovered that there was no fence around it and that the cemetery was being destroyed by cattle overrunning it. Magnolia State Chapter, D. A. R. in Jackson, Mississippi, had the fence restored. This was done at the instigation and under the direction of Miss Susie Selsar, of beloved memory, and the fact that we are able to copy the inscriptions today is due to the fact that she arranged this restoration.

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There are inscriptions on two sides of one of the shafts

To
the memory of
COWLES MEAD
whose
pure life
exemplified the spirit
of an
honest man
Born
Oct. 18th 1776
Died
May 17th, 1844

On the other side of the same shaft -

To
the memory of
MARY LILLY
wife of
COWLES MEAD
Born
March 10th, 1797
Died
Oct. 27th, 1834

1791

SURVEYED

The other shaft bears this inscription -

Sacred
to the memory of
COWLES G. MEAD
Born in
Jefferson County, Miss.
Nov. 28th, 1818
Died in
Yazoo County, Miss.
Oct. 25th 1849
"And this is the promise
He hath promised us;
even eternal life"

(Gamble and Skates, Vicksburg)