

George Newman: Bethany Cemetery

AS: Which cemetery is the governor's father buried in?

GN: That's the one at Bryson. He has the, the two Governor Browns, there were three Governor Browns from Giles County, but there are two, Neal and John C., that were raised over there, but they are both, John C. is buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Pulaski. Neal is in a cemetery in Nashville, which I may think of the name of before I'm through, but their father and their mother are buried in Bryson in the Bethany cemetery. It's the Bethany cemetery because it originally belonged to the church, and the church was originally in the parking lot, in what is now the parking lot, and was at one time across the road from it. The cemetery is across the road from the cabin that the Brown family was raised in, and this family, this cabin belongs to some of the Galpemans now in east Tennessee. Still standing. The Bethany cemetery dates back to 1828-1830, has a slave built rock wall around it. The wall has been repaired twice, I believe, over the years. It has another place that needs repairing to date. Duncan Brown and his wife and the McCallums are all buried, older McCallums which are all brothers in law to Duncan Brown are buried there. The, one of the tombs there that to me is, is unusual, is that it is a stacked rock tomb. It's about four feet wide at the base. The rocks taper up until they're eight, about ten inches wide at the top. And this is almost nine feet long, and I'm talking about the rocks.[new track]

GS: Are sloped, they taper. They're very similar to what you would consider a pyramid, in Egypt to be built as. And this is one of, this was Mr. McCallum's grave, Duncan Brown's brother. Duncan, as Ann said, is the father of the Governor Browns. There were two Duncan Browns in that community at one time, the other Duncan Brown was a Presbyterian minister. He actually was from Columbia of Murray County. But he came down here and helped start the Bethany Presbyterian Church. How long he stayed here no one seems to be quite sure on. Duncan Brown has another brother who was Captain James Smith, who fought in the naval battle of Trafalgar, which is the battle which started the downfall of Napoleon, the emperor of Japan, emperor of France. Smith and his wife are buried not in the Bethany cemetery but in a little cemetery that lies up there next to the interstate, which has been mostly destroyed over the years. I think there are four graves left in that cemetery. There were only about eleven or twelve graves in it to start with, as far as we know. And Duncan Brown has some children buried there, but Duncan and his wife are in the Bethany cemetery, which is about a half a mile west of the Brown cemetery.