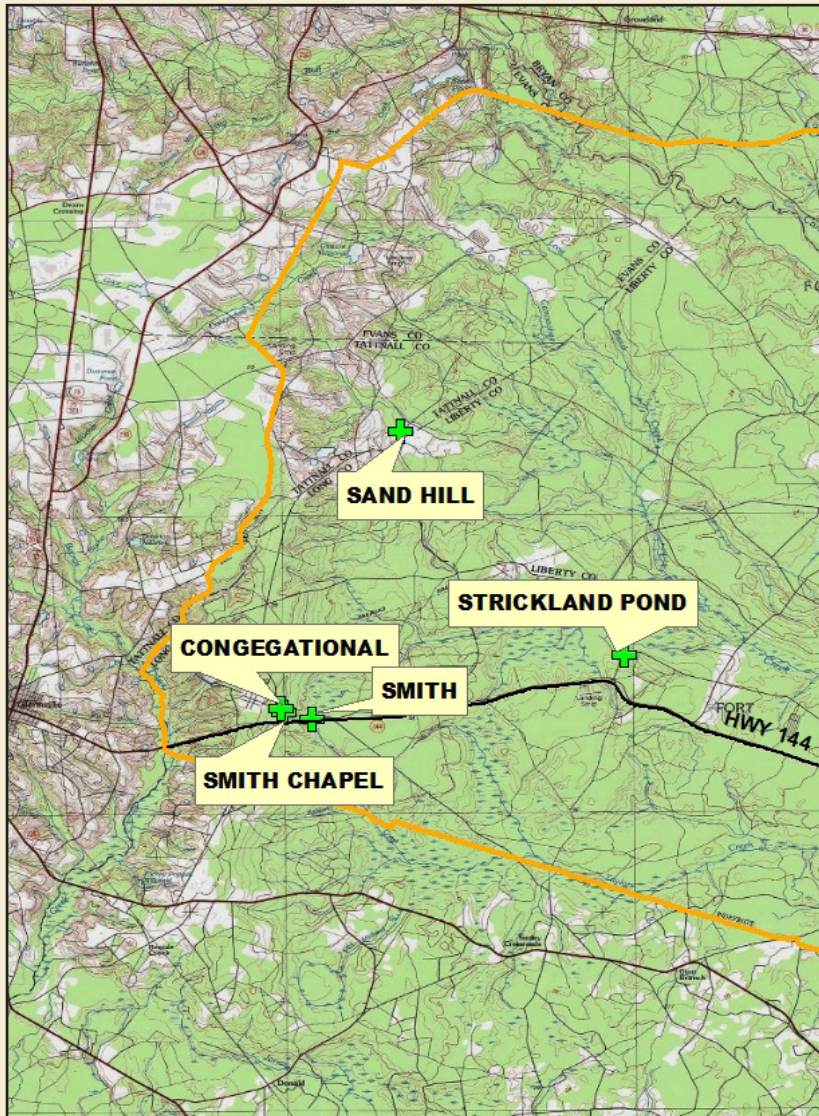


FALL 2019 CEMETERY TOUR MAP



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FALL CEMETERY TOUR 21 NOVEMBER 2019

Fall Cemetery Tour

*Strickland Pond, Sand Hill, Congregational,
Smith Chapel, and Smith Cemeteries*



Fall Cemetery Tour

STRICKLAND POND: This cemetery is also known as the Tom's Creek Methodist Church Cemetery. Originally a white church when it began in the 1860s, the original Tom's Creek Church disbanded by the late 1890s when the church began to serve the religious needs of the local African-American community. At some point in the early 1900s, the community constructed a school in the vicinity of the church and cemetery. Both church and school operated until acquisition by the U.S. Army in 1941. The church and school likely served the needs of the residents of nearby Bland Town, located a short distance to the southeast. Bland Town supported a turpentine distillery throughout the early 20th century. To the north of the cemetery, Strickland Mill Pond (for which the cemetery is named after) and its associated gristmill was in operation through the early 1930s and likely was constructed during the late 19th century. William Arnold "Arnie" Strickland (b. 1874, d. 1965) is believed to have been the owner of the gristmill during the 1930s.

There are a total of 13 marked burials at Strickland Pond Cemetery which date from 1862 to 1931. The land the cemetery is on was once part of a large 1,081 acre tract owned by Mr. Walton A. Strickland, Jr. when the government acquired the property. Previous owners of this property included G. W. Murrell and J. W. Hardee, who are both buried in the Strickland Pond Cemetery, and Z. L. Delk who is buried in Glennville City Cemetery. Other families buried at Strickland Pond Cemetery include: Brown, Curry, Darsey, Garrison, and Smiley.



SMITH CHAPEL: The Smith Chapel Cemetery, located within the former community of Banner, was associated with the African-American church known as Smith Chapel. The cemetery has only four marked burials and seven unmarked burials that range from 1923 to 1936. The family names associated with this cemetery include only Brock and Porter.



SMITH CEMETERY: The Smith Cemetery, also known as the Gaps of the Bays Cemetery, is located within the former community of Banner along the old Hencart Road (present-day Georgia Highway 144). Twenty-five marked burials are located within the cemetery. Little is known about this cemetery other than the family names associated with it which include: Boggs, Griffin, Kicklighter, Miller; Porter; Smith, and Strickland.



Fall Cemetery Tour

CONGREGATIONAL CEMETERY: The Congregational Cemetery, also known as the Oak Grove Congregational Cemetery, is located within the former community of Banner. In 1889, James H. Durrence sold one acre of land to David Baldwin, R. J. Jenkins, and Amos Bragg who were the Trustees of the African-American Oak Grove Congregational Church. David Baldwin was a farmer born in North Carolina who, by 1910, had seven children and a hired man to help run the farm. Fellow Trustee Amos Bragg was also a farmer who, in 1910, lived in the Glennville area of Tattnall County. By 1920, the Oak Grove School had been constructed adjacent to the church which both served the community until the land was acquired by the government in 1941. The Congregational Cemetery has seven marked graves and two unmarked graves. Known burial dates for the cemetery range from 1914 to 1927. The family names associated with this cemetery include: Baldwin, Mosley, and Murphy.



SAND HILL: The Sand Hill Church was located in eastern Tattnall County in the northwest corner of Fort Stewart. On August 14, 1875, J. H. Bolton sold four acres of pine land to what was originally known as the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church for a sum of five dollars. Initially, there was no church building and the members of the congregation worshipped under the Live Oaks which remain today. Trustees of the church during its formation were: John Jenkins, A. J. Wells, William N. Moon, Edward Weathers, and A. M. Johnson. One of the earliest (and the longest serving) pastors was Reverend Emory F. Dean of Folkston, Georgia who served as early as September 23, 1876. Other pastors included Reverends John Jenkins and John W. Roach during the 1880s and 1890s.

Beginning in 1915, and continuing until at least 1941, Sand Hill Church held a popular yearly "Singing Convention." During the conventions, individuals from the neighboring Methodist, Missionary Baptist, and Primitive Baptist churches convened at Sand Hill for several Saturdays for singing lessons. The convention culminated with an all-day recital and dinner on the church grounds. Church services continued at Sand Hill until 1941 when the government acquired the property. The church building was removed from Camp Stewart and placed across from Midway School that same year. Reverend L. Joy Scott served as the last pastor of the church.

There are 97 marked burials and at least three unmarked burials documented within the cemetery. The earliest interment was October 9, 1876 and the latest was May 7, 1941. Family names that are buried at Sand Hill Cemetery include: Bradham, Entrekin, Futch, Grice, Herrington, Jenkins, Johnson, Lewis, May, Purcell, Richardson, Roach, Rogers, Salter, Sands, Smith, Wells, Winters, and Wright.

Fall Cemetery Tour

THE COMMUNITY OF BANNER: The Banner community was an African-American farming and turpentine community that was active from the late 1800s until 1941, when the properties were acquired by the government. Banner was located on the old Hencart Road (present-day Georgia Highway 144) which was a major transportation route that led to Savannah. James H. Durrence, a successful turpentine operator residing in Tattnall County, owned much of the land in the former Banner community by the 1880s. He was also a founding stockholder in the Glennville Bank and would eventually own 11,000 acres in Tattnall County making him the largest landowner in that county. The Banner Post Office was opened in 1888 and served as the tax collection center for the community. Two African-American churches served this small community which were Oak Grove Congregational and Smith Chapel. Three cemeteries served the former community of Banner which were Congregational, Smith, and Smith Chapel Cemeteries.

