

## Elijah Graves House Cemetery Yanceyville, North Carolina

Set back off Highway 62/86 east of Yanceyville, North Carolina, just before the intersection with Highway 86 Bypass is the house built by Solomon Graves (1766-1830) around 1799. In 1820, Solomon Graves (who moved to Georgia around 1819) sold the house and associated land to his nephew, Azariah Graves (1776-1837). Azariah never married, and left the property to his beloved younger brother, Elijah Graves (1778-1855), also a bachelor. Later, the property was left to another Elijah Graves, a nephew of the older Elijah Graves.



Accordingly, the house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is

referred to as the Elijah Graves House. The house is on the south side of the road and has a family cemetery to the east between the highway and the house. Set forth below is a partial inventory of the headstones found in that cemetery September 2005. All information and photographs are courtesy of the owners of the Elijah Graves House and the Caswell County Historical Association. This site (house and cemetery) is not open to the public.

1. Captain William Graves
2. Ann L. Graves
3. Mrs. Polly Mebane
4. General Barzillai Graves
5. Mary T. Graves
6. Azariah Graves, Esquire
7. Elijah Graves, Sr.
8. Mrs. Elizabeth Graves
9. Delilah Miles
10. Abner Miles
11. Elizabeth Graves Burke (preparations only)
12. Charles Bidwell Farrar

Mentioned but Not Interred: James L. Graves

1. Capt. William Graves  
Died: 25 December 1845  
Aged 65 Years 1 Month 28 Days



2. Ann L. Graves  
Wife of Capt. William Graves  
Born: 5 January 1794  
Died: 28 October 1857





3. Mrs. Polly Mebane  
Born: 15 January 1792  
Died: 3 February 1846

Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord



4. General Barzillai Graves  
Died: 10 October 1850  
Aged: 68 Years      5 Months      24 Days







5. Mary T. Graves  
Second Wife of General Barzillai Graves  
Died: 15 July 1854  
Aged: About 68 Years

**NO PHOTOGRAPH**

6. Azariah Graves, Esquire  
Born: 1 November 1776  
Died 1 May 1837

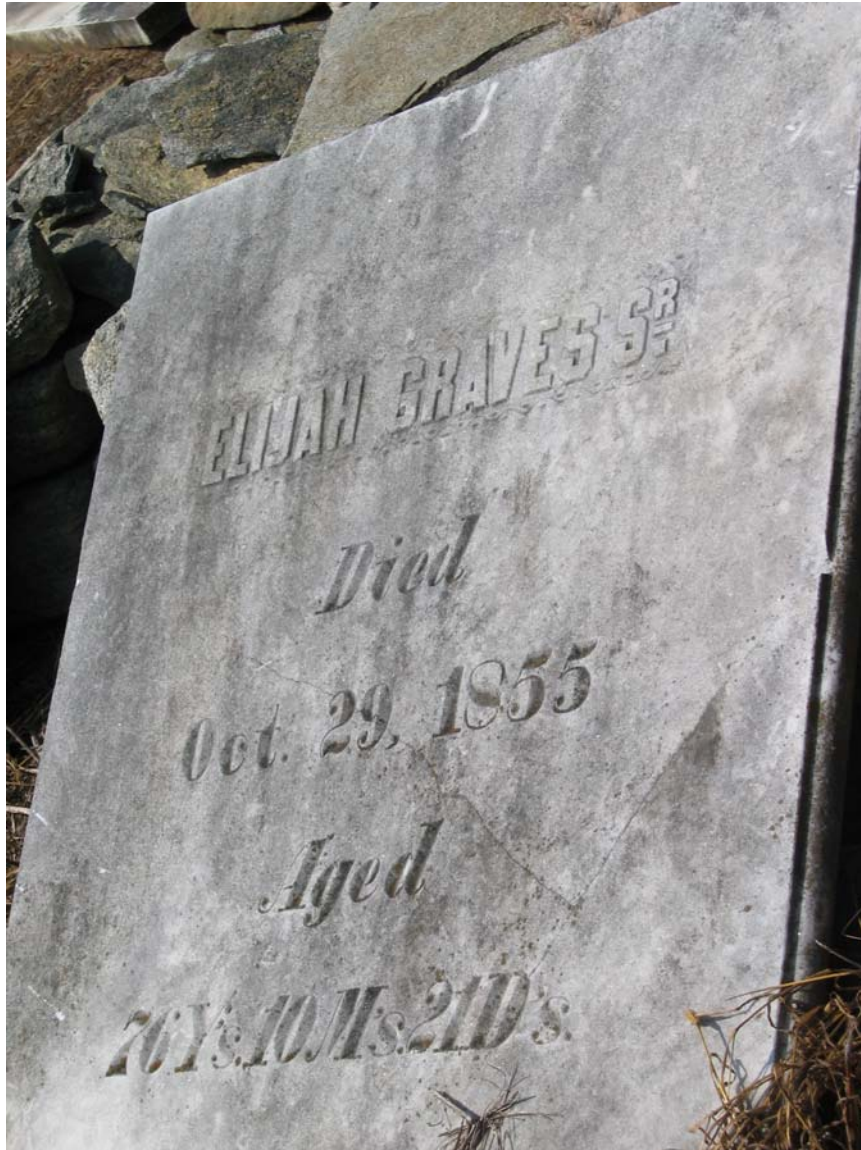


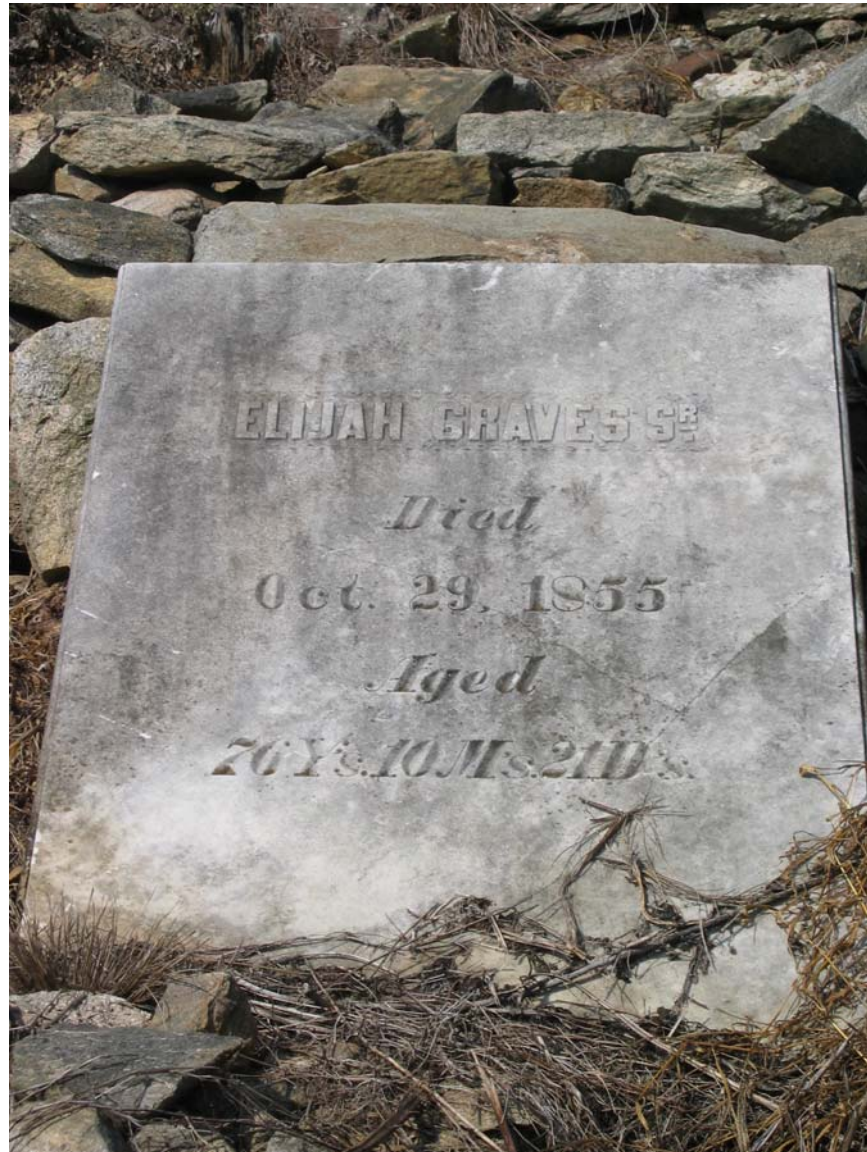






7. Elijah Graves, Senior  
Died: 29 October 1855  
Aged: 76 Years      10 Months      21 Days

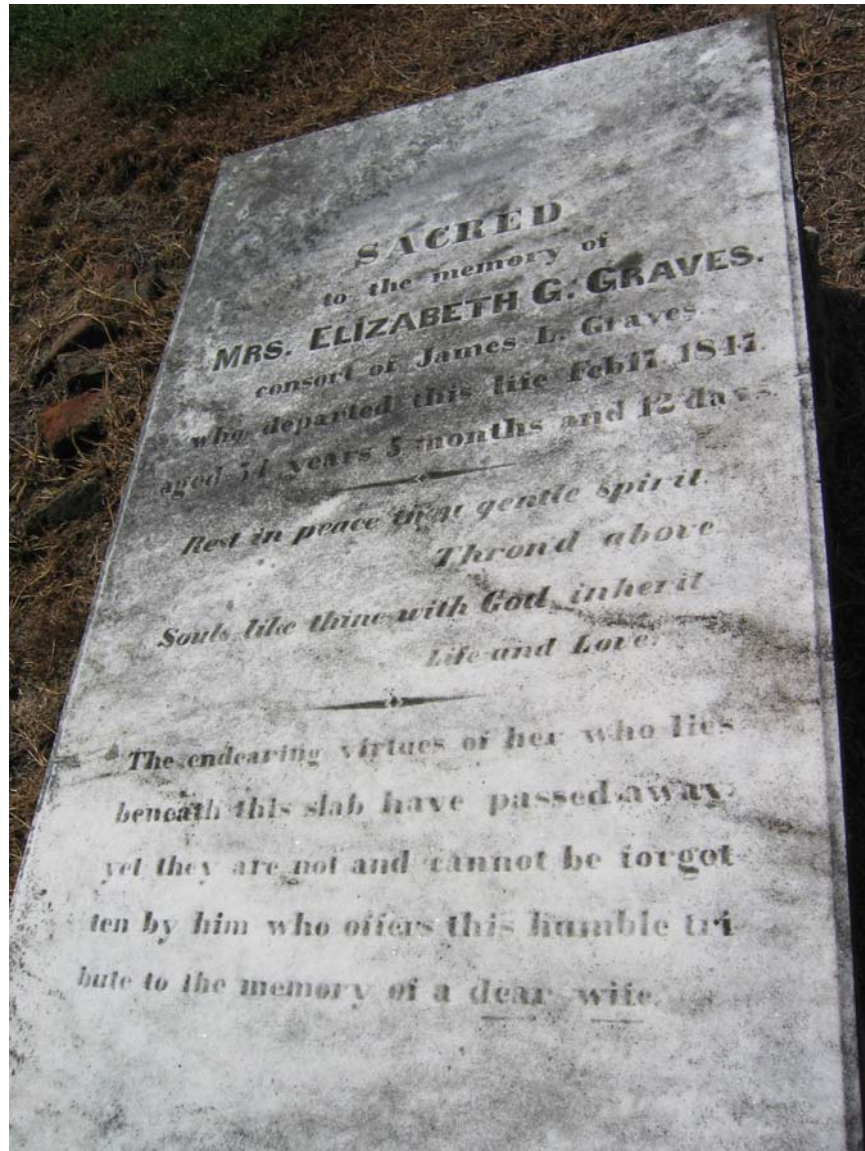






8. Mrs. Elizabeth G. Graves  
Consort of James L. Graves  
Died: 17 February 1847  
Aged: 34 Years      5 Months      12 Days







9. Delilah Miles  
7 September 1784 – 13 April 1848  
To the memory of  
The Christian Wife and Mother  
Sweet be thy sleep and glorious thy



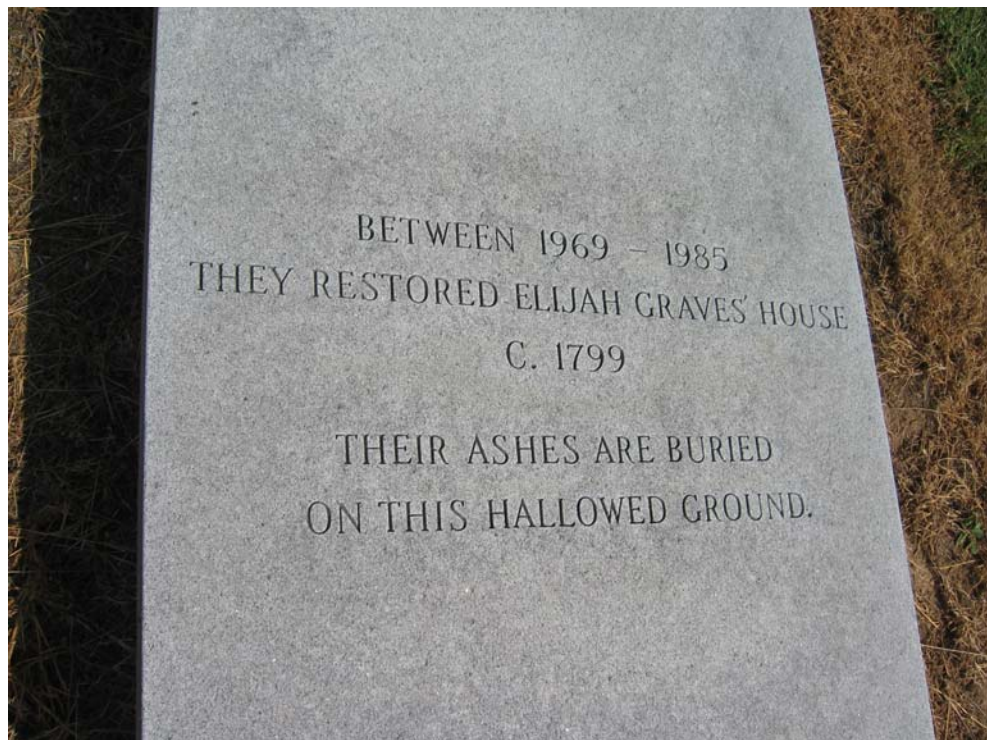
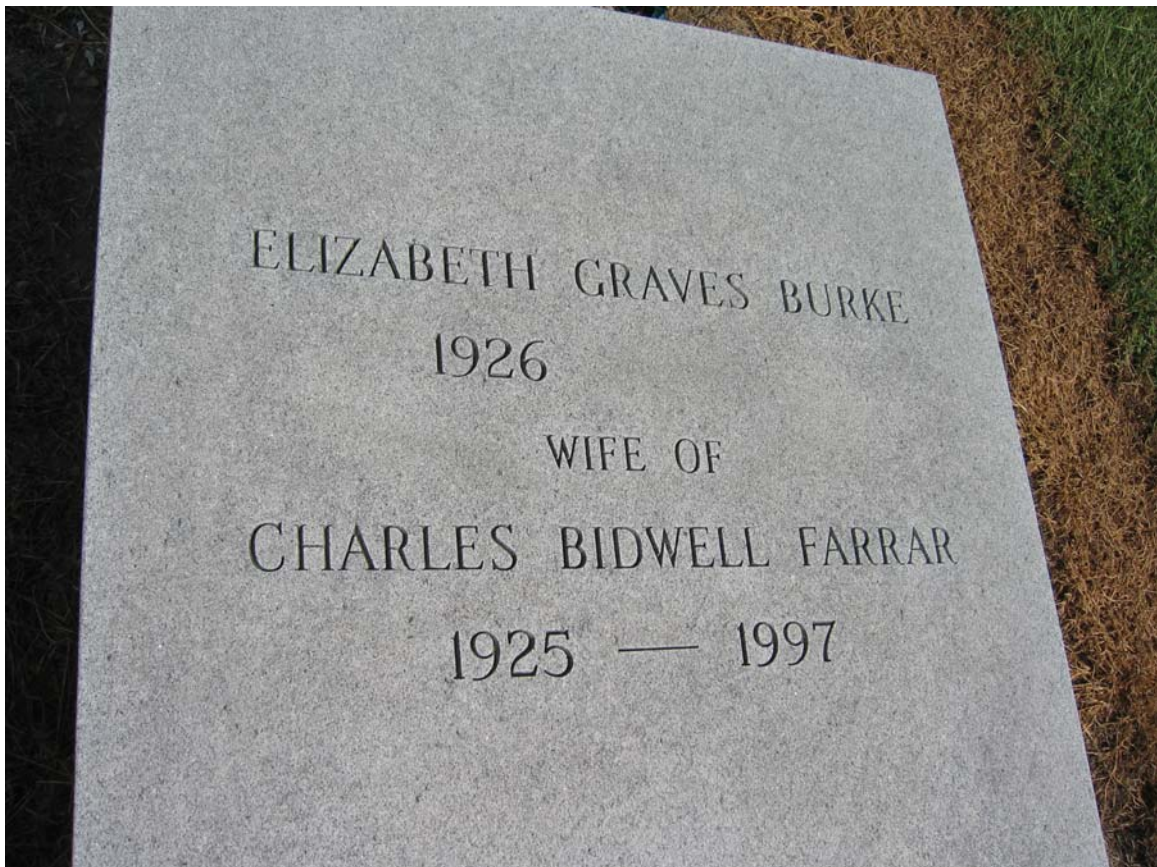
10. Abner Miles  
Died: 16 October 1856  
Aged: 64 Years





11. Elizabeth (Betsy) Graves Burke  
1926 –  
Wife of Charles Bidwell Farrar  
(1925-1997)  
Between 1969 – 1985 They Restored Elijah Graves' House C. 1799  
Their Ashes Are Buried On This Hallowed Ground.















Notes on those interred in this Graves Family Cemetery:

Captain William Graves	Son of John Herndon Graves and Ann (Nancy) Talbot Slade
Ann L. Graves	Wife of Captain William Graves. Daughter of General Azariah Graves and sister of Calvin Graves. She was the second wife of Captain William Graves. Their home was the Graves-Florance-Gatewood House, which now houses the Richmond-Miles History Museum.
Mrs. Polly Mebane	Youngest daughter of John Herndon Graves and Ann (Nancy) Talbot Slade. She was the second wife of James Mebane who survived her and married a third time. They had no children.
General Barzillai Graves	Son of John Herndon Graves and Ann (Nancy) Talbot Slade. General in North Carolina Militia. Leader of Democratic Party in Caswell County. Member of North Carolina Legislature. Caswell County Attorney in 1831.
Mary T. Graves	This possibly is the second wife of General Barzillai Graves, Mary Thomas (Marshall) Royal. She was Mary Thomas Marshall, and the widow of a Mr. Royal from Virginia. She was from Halifax, Virginia.
Azariah Graves, Esq.	Bachelor son of John Herndon Graves and Ann (Nancy) Talbot Slade.
Elijah Graves, Sr.	Bachelor son of John Herndon Graves and Ann (Nancy) Talbot Slade.
Mrs. Elizabeth G. Graves	Daughter of Delilah Graves and her first husband, David Womack. Granddaughter of John Herndon Graves.
Delilah Miles	Daughter of John Herndon Graves and Ann (Nancy) Talbot Slade. Wife of David Womack and Abner Miles.
Abner Miles	Second husband of Delilah Graves. He was Postmaster at Yanceyville in 1838; also Register of Deeds for Caswell County. Their home was a large frame house on Main Street in Yanceyville. Later, it was the property of Julius Johnston, but now has been demolished (as of 1974).



There are other graves in this cemetery that were never marked. The second Elijah Graves, son of William Graves and Isabella Graves, and his wives (Eliza Gunn and Mary Crump) probably are buried there.

However, the third Elijah Graves (son of Elijah Graves and Mary Crump), who died in the 1920s, is buried at a church near Semora, North Carolina, near the home of his niece, Irene Brandon. He died in that home. The ground was covered with snow, so the family was unable to get his body to the Graves family cemetery in Yanceyville, North Carolina.

There probably are additional tombstones, as well.

The will of Azariah Graves (1 Nov 1776 – 1 May 1837) (Book N, page 59) shows that he selected the spot for the cemetery and was the first to be buried there. In his will, he asked that his brothers and sisters be buried with him in the family cemetery, if they desired. Two sisters and three brothers were buried there beside Azariah, all the siblings that remained in Caswell County, except Ann (Nancy) Graves, who married Bartlett Yancey, Jr., and is buried along side her husband in the Yancey family cemetery at the Bartlett Yancey, Jr., house on Highway 158 in the western portion of Yanceyville.

The *Milton Spectator* of July 1837 reported: "Funeral of Azariah Graves at his home near Yanceyville, July 10 – preached by Rev. John Kerr." His funeral was four months after his death, which was not unusual.

Much of the foregoing is attributed to a June 9, 1974, analysis of this cemetery prepared by Katharine Kerr Kendall.

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