

Longleaf Estates Cemetery

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Background

It's just such a mystery. At this time I have come to believe the most logical connection is to the Raines/Rains/Ranes family mentioned in the Chicora report. They were here as early as 1840, and that leaves about 70 possible years max people could have been living here previously since no one really lived here prior to the 1770s. Some of Alsey Ranes' children are buried in nearby cemeteries, but he and his wife don't have any known graves at local churches. So I think it makes sense to think they are buried here.

The Ranes family is still in the area as far as I can tell, and I don't know why they would have abandoned the cemetery. But it's not too unusual for families to abandon old cemeteries from what I can tell based on how other local families have treated them. I've talked to other local people who live on properties with these old cemeteries and they say the family knows but doesn't visit or maintain the cemetery.

There were several plantations in this area that can be used as references as to how burials were conducted. There was a Dunn plantation over on Burlington Mill Road, and the Rogers/Haywood/Whitaker plantation on the corner behind the Moose Lodge at the intersection of Route 401 and Forestville Road.

The Rogers/Haywood/Whitaker plantation owned quite a few enslaved people over the years who are probably buried nearby. However, they are not likely to have been buried in our cemetery for a few reasons, mainly the creek between that property and the cemetery. I don't think they would have carried the bodies over water to bury them. It just doesn't really make sense. Also the Rogers/Haywood/Whitaker family has an extensive cemetery over in a neighborhood a few miles down the road and their burials were associated with the Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church. There is some evidence of enslaved people buried there, outside of the wall of the cemetery. The records of the church are at the Wake Forest University and need to be transcribed and reviewed.

Peterson Dunn was very wealthy and prominent at one time (he is mentioned in the Chicora report) and had been left with his brother a huge and beautiful mansion, Pine Hall, that is still standing in Raleigh. He owned multiple plantations. The area over by Endeavor was known as "Dunnsville" because of his family's prominence. Even though he was wealthy, he was buried in a primitive grave off Burlington Mill that was similar to the graves in our cemetery. His grave was neglected to the point that construction workers plowed right over him to build Kitchin Farms.

Peterson Dunn owned multiple plantations and is listed as having 34 slaves in 1850. That was at the height of slavery. Going farther back in time, local people had fewer slaves. It is reasonable to conclude that the graves in our cemetery could be mixed, like those in the Dunn cemetery over on Burlington Mill. In their case, there was a wall clearly separating the people of African descent from European. But they were much wealthier than the Ranes/Raines/Rains family.

Although the Ranes/Raines/Rains family did own slaves, but I'm not sure to what extent or how far back. Alsey Raines has only ever been linked to one enslaved person. On the map of the Longleaf Estates cemetery, some graves are placed farther from others, maybe these are graves of enslaved people.

A map of the Longleaf Estates cemetery is below, along with a picture of the Rogers/Haywood/Whitaker homestead behind the Moose Lodge. At the time of writing this document, that homestead is still standing.



Map of Longleaf Estates Cemetery

**Picture of Rogers/Haywood/Whitaker homestead
behind the Moose Lodge**

