

A CEMETERY ON A FARM NEAR SENTINEL, POLK COUNTY, MISSOURI
"THE NEAR-SENTINEL FARM CEMETERY, NEAR SENTINEL, MISSOURI"
SURNAMEN: LOW - KEITH - HOWE - ZUMWALT - STEWART

This Near-Sentinel cemetery is about 1-1/4 miles South-East of what was Sentinel Prairie Post Office, and is in Section 17 of T35N, R21W, W 1/2 SW, Geodesic Coordinates: 37.781264 \ 93.281779, in the North pasture of the farm owned in 2001 by Ava Grannemann, 3299 S. 198 Rd., Goodwin, Polk County, Missouri.
Routing from Bolivar: Hwy. D, North, 7 miles to Hwy. D/C, East, 3 miles to Hwy. D, North, 3 miles to Hwy. 64, East 2 miles, 1 mile after Lindley Creek, to 198 Road, North, 1.25 miles to farm road, North-West to Ava's farm house. The Cemetery is North of the farm house in the fenced pasture North of the gate, in a grove of trees.

On 16 Sep 2001, Kay Griffin Snow, told that the Sentinel Cemetery was on land owned by Ava Grannemann. On 20 Oct 2001, in a telephone conversation, Ava described the cemetery as:
In a grove of trees in a gated - fenced pasture, the stones knocked down and moved, only one stone upright. Ava said that she was 80 years old, her maiden name was "Payne", and that her grandfather bought the farm which has been her's since 1949, and which her first husband Cecil Pitts farmed in 1972.
The burials in a Cemetery near Sentinel, Polk County, Missouri, were recorded by Esther Mattie (Locke) May and her son Larry Austin May, in a typewritten manuscript written after 24 Sep 1973, which described the Cemetery as:

SENTINEL (NEAR) . . . a small cemetery on a farm near Sentinel, Mo., . . . now owned by Cecil Pitts (1972).

The 1979 Cemetery Directory published by the Polk County Historical Society listed this un-named cemetery as in "Sentinel (McKinley Twp., on C. Pitts farm), having 9 graves", each name listed as in "Sentinel (near)" cemetery. In 1999, the Polk County Genealogical Society published: Sentinel Cemetery Located on C Pitts Farm, Near Sentinel, Missouri, McKinley Township, Polk County, Missouri, that included a photo-copy of the 1973 manuscript, and the addition of a limited surname research by Jennie Springer.
These publications left the cemetery un-named and its' location confused with that of the cemetery in Sentinel.

In 1995, Larry May gave me a copy of the 1973 manuscript, an inventory of Sentinel (Near) cemetery headstones, by Esther Mattie (Locke) May and her son Larry Austin May.
The following is an approximate transcription of the 2-page typed manuscript - annotations by me: [cld]:

SENTINEL (NEAR) [Page 1]

The following headstones are in a small cemetery on a farm near Sentinel, Mo., once owned by the J. N. Low listed below, now owned by Cecil Pitts (1972), by Esther and Larry May.

[Sketch of an open book "Holy Bible" - "Gone Home" - "Joseph N. Low"]

The stone was broken off where the date of death was engraved; however, a mortality schedule. from Columbia, Mo., states, "Joe N. Low died of pneumonia between Sept. 1-27, 1859, in Polk Co., Mo.

In the same cemetery there is a stone with P. B. Low [Pryor Baker Low (1828 - 1875) is Joseph's brother] and another one with only the initials M. E. L.; also a headstone for the father-in-law of Joe N. Low:

Jno. W. Howe - Co. K - 3 Mo. Vols. - Mex. War
Born: 2 May 1802 - Died: 2 June 1871 "Gone but not forgotten"

Found by Jewell Payne and Esther May September 24, 1973:
"Low" Margaret E. ["Circled Dove" - MARGARET E.]
Dau. of J. N. and S. [Dau. of - J. N. & S. J. - LOW]
April 9, 1858 - June 14, 1865 [Born Apr. 9, 1858 - Died June 14, 1865]

[Margaret Elizabeth Low is the daughter of Joseph Newton Low and "Syntha", Cynthia Ann J. Howe.]

This must be the youngest daughter of Joe and Cynthia Low.
We have found she spelled her name with an "S" on different documents.

"In Memory" - Polly Stewart - Born in 1775 - Died Oct. the 28, 1846
In Memory of - Brice Stewart - Born in 1779 - Died Apr. the 23, 1811 or 1817
(Too dim to be certain)

[From LDS files: Brice Stewart, born 1779 in Henry, VA, died 23 Apr 1847,]
[Burial: near Sentinel, MO, Father: James Stewart, Mother: Rachel Holloway,]
[Married to Mary Polly Hodges, 30 Jan 1798, in Franklin, VA.]

Adam Zumwalt - Aged 63 years - 4 days - "In my fathers house are many mansions"

[Adam Zumwalt, 1860 census Polk Co., MO, age 53, born in VA, Abt. 1807.]
[Adam died before the 1 June 1870 census, aged 63 years, 4 days, in Abt. 1870.]

There were a few unmarked stones.

Charley Keith tells me he is positive that this is the cemetery his mother told him that James and Anderson Keith are buried in. They were killed near Sentinel, Mo., during the Civil War and had married sisters of Cynthia (Howe) Low. James Keith married Narcissa Howe, who is buried in Star, Idaho; Anderson Keith married Sarah Howe, who is buried in Bowers Chapel Cemetery near Urbana, Mo.



THE LOCATION AND NAME OF THE NEAR-SENTINEL FARM CEMETERY

Sentinel was the site of the Sentinel Prairie Post Office and General Store in Green Township, Polk County, Missouri, but is now in McKinley Twp., without the Post Office and General Store and with only a few houses and a church with an adjacent "new" cemetery. This cemetery in Sentinel has been confused with the cemetery near Sentinel, identified here as "The Near-Sentinel Farm Cemetery", which is South-East of Sentinel, and Lindley Creek, in the North pasture of a farm for which we have no records of original purchase. The cemetery is on the East side of an abandoned roadway which ran along the West edge of Section 17, South through the farm house property, and North through the 80 acre farm of John Wesley Howe, forded Lindley Creek, then ran North-West to Sentinel. The farm was probably occupied before the district was surveyed and made available for purchase when on 1 July 1845, John W. Howe purchased 80 acres in Section 17, W1/2NW, and Joseph N. Low purchased 40 acres in adjacent Section 20, NENE, both in T35N, R21W, Polk County, Missouri, registered in Clinton, MO.

Joseph Newton Low is possibly the original owner of the farm on which the cemetery was established, but until the name of the original owner is established it has no proper naming basis.

1. Esther May wrote: "The following headstones are in a small cemetery on a farm near Sentinel, Mo., once owned by the J. N. Low listed below, now owned by Cecil Pitts (1972)." [Ref: Joseph Newton Low.]
Esther is a Great Granddaughter of Joseph Newton Low and Cynthia Ann J. Howe who married on 2 Feb 1843 in Polk County, Missouri, and may have known of Joseph's ownership through family members.
2. Esther's son, Larry May, in 1995, identified Joseph Low's burial place as: "Payne Farm, Sentinel, Polk County, Missouri." when he sent me a copy of the 1973 cemetery record; not verifying Joseph's ownership of the farm.
3. History of Polk County, Missouri, Goodspeed Pub. Co., Chicago, 1885, page 285: Earlier land entries from the Public land records entered at Springfield, MO: T35, R21: 1844 - James Martin, Joseph N. Lowe.
4. No Public land sales in T35, R21 were recorded in the entire 1835 - 1846 Springfield Land Office Abstracts, published in 1982 by Ozarks Genealogical Society, Springfield, MO. Joseph's 1844 land purchase cannot be documented from them, and the property Section Number location is unknown.
5. The BLM land records list no purchaser for the 64 acre farm in S-17, T35N, R21W, E1/2SW, the location of the cemetery and possibly the original 1844 farm of Joseph N. Low.

OUR VISIT TO THE NEAR-SENTINEL CEMETERY

by Calvin and Rose Doub

In October 2001 we visited this cemetery in the north pasture of Ava Grannamann's farm, and photographed a few stones and views.

John W. Howe's headstone, firmly set in concrete, is the only one standing.

The stone of "P. B. Low" recorded in 1972, was found firmly embedded in clay soil, face down and unreadable.

Other stones were found collected at the base of trees:

"Joseph N. Low", "Margaret E. Low", "M. E. L." (Margaret's footstone),

"ADAM Z__WALT" (Adam Zumwalt's stone is broken into 3 pieces), "A. Z." (Adam's footstone).

"Polly Stewart", "P. S." (Polly Stewart's footstone).

These stones were laying near the stone curbed Stewart grave sites in the first (western) row:

TENTATIVE LISTING

This small cemetery is defined by a grove of trees with only three recognizable graves. The cows have broken some stones and trampled the rest. It has space for about 3 north-to-south rows of graves facing west to a fenced property line and abandoned road. The north-running road may have been originally the road connecting John Howe's farm; which, after fording Lindley Creek, continued northwesterly to Sentinel P.O.

There may be space for 30 or more graves, of which only 9 burials are recorded and 5 identified as possible.

John Howe's headstone, the only one standing, is fixed in its' concrete bed in the most eastern row, south of a large tree which has the concrete bed of a missing headstone entwined in its' roots.

Possible and recorded burials are:

- 1 (Poss.) Jacob Low, b. 1 Mar 1794 - d. 25 Aug 1844, aged 50 years.
(Father of Joseph, Pryor and Mathew Low. Jacob moved his family from Tennessee to Polk Co. in Abt 1842).
- 2 Polly Stewart, b. 1775 - d. 28 Oct 1846, aged 71 years. (Mary Polly Hodges m. 30 Jan 1798, Franklin, VA.).
- 3 Brice Stewart, b. 1779 - d. 23 Apr 1847, aged 68 yrs. (b. Henry, VA, Fa: James Stewart, Mo: Rachel Holloway).
- 4 (Poss.) Mathew Thomas Low, b. Abt 1830 - d. 1849, Aged 19 years, of Typhoid Fever (Joseph's brother).
- 5 (Poss.) Rufus Keith, b. Abt. 1830 - d. 1858, aged 28 years, of unknown cause (Brother of James & Anderson).
- 6 Joseph Newton Low, b. Abt. 1819 - d. Sep 1859, aged 40 years. (Husb. of Cynthia Ann J. (Howe) Low).
- 7 James Keith, b. Abt. 1827 - d. 3 May 1863, Aged 36 years. (Husb. of Narcissa Elizabeth Howe).
- 8 Anderson Keith, b. Abt. 1837 - d. Abt. 1863, Aged Abt. 26 years. (Husb. of Sarah Elizabeth Howe).
(Charley Keith said his mother told him these two Keith brothers are buried in this cemetery.
They were killed near Sentinel, Missouri. during the Civil War.)
- 9 Margaret Elizabeth Low, b. 6 Apr 1858 - d. 14 Jun 1865, aged 7 years. (Dau. of Joseph & Cynthia Ann J. Low).
- 10 John Wesley Howe, b. 2 May 1802 - d. 2 Jun 1871, aged 69 years. (Father of Cynthia Ann J. (Howe) Low).
- 11 Adam Zumwalt, b. Abt. 1807 - d. Abt.1870, aged 63 years 4 days.
- 12 (Poss.) Rhoda (Anderson) Keith, b. Abt. 1802 - d 1872, aged 70 years.
(Mother of James, Anderson, Rufus, & Susan, widow of Moses Keith).
- 13 Pryor Baker Low, b. 1828 - d. 1875, aged 47 years.
(Husb. of Susannah (Keith) Low, bro. of Joseph, father of Mary Orlena (Low, Dryer) Cottam, my grandmother.
- 14 (Poss.) Susannah (Keith) Low b. Abt Jan 1832 - d. 1880, aged 48 years.
(Wife of Pryor B. Low, dau. of Moses Keith.)

SOURCE NOTES:

Sentinel Cemetery Located on C. Pitts Farm Near Sentinel, McKinley Township, Polk County, Missouri;
Polk County Genealogical Society, Inc., PO Box 632, Bolivar, MO 65613, <www.rootsweb.com/~mopolkgs>, 1999.
Includes "Cemetery on a farm near Sentinel, Mo., read 1972 by Esther and Larry May", and a limited family history.

BLM GLO Records – Land Patent Details – <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov> – Land Records of Polk County, MO.

The 1979 Cemetery Directory, by the Polk County Historical Society: "Sentinel (McKinley Twp., on C. Pitts farm."
Howe, Jno. W. (May 2, 1802-Jun. 2, 1871), Keith, Anderson (n.d.), Keith, James (n.d.),
Low, Joseph N. (n.d.-Sep 1859), Low, Margaret E. (Apr. 9, 1858-Jun. 14, 1865), Low, P.B. (n.d.),

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE NEAR-SENTINEL FARM CEMETERY, POLK COUNTY, MISSOURI

by Calvin and Rose Doub, October 2001



View to the north from the pasture gate, of the cemetery in the grove of trees. [001_01_---.JPG]



View to the east, of John Wesley Howe's headstone, the only one still standing. [001_03_---.JPG]

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE NEAR-SENTINEL FARM CEMETERY, POLK COUNTY, MISSOURI

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Headstones of Joseph Newton Low, his daughter Margaret Elizabeth and of her footstone. [002_01_---.JPG]



Headstone of John Wesley Howe, father-in-law of Joseph N. Low, early Polk County Residents. [003_01_---.JPG].

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE NEAR-SENTINEL FARM CEMETERY, POLK COUNTY, MISSOURI

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Headstone of Adam Zumwalt, early Polk County resident. Three pieces: "ADAM Z__WALT". [004_01_---.JPG]



Headstone of Mary Polly (Hodges) Stewart, wife of Brice, early Polk County, Residents. [005_01_---.JPG]