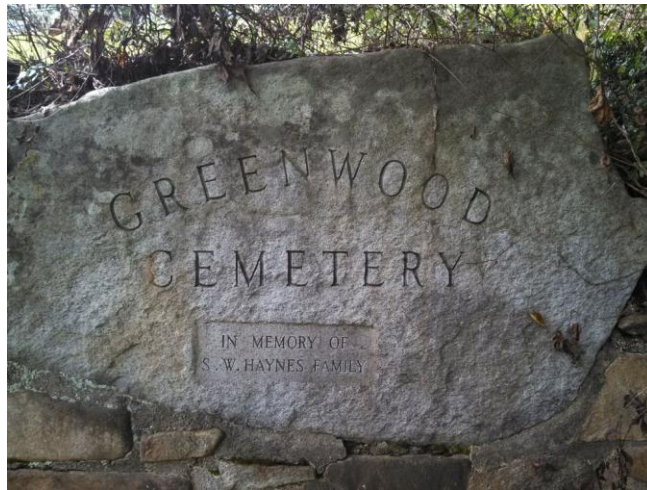


In Search of Any Info: Greenwood Cemetery Legend



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When I was a teenager, my grandfather, Wayne Shuford Burleson, took me for a 4 wheeler ride up the side of the mountain behind his house to visit our family/community cemetery on Martin's Creek Rd in Barnardville, NC. He was the caretaker of the cemetery and many of my Burleson/Haynes ancestors are buried there.





This summer, JD Burleson traveled to meet my family and I at the cemetery and show us how to safely clean gravestones. It was a great learning experience and we cleaned many of my ancestors' stones.

While we were working, my step-grandmother reminded me of a story that my grandfather had told me: many years ago

(my guess is sometime around or before early 1900s) an African American lady in the community was buried there under a tree (all of which remains now is a stump) after she had “danced herself to death”. I did not think to ask him any further details at the time, and he passed suddenly in 2020. No one else in the family knows any other details beyond what I have mentioned. I have done some research trying to learn the history of the cemetery and it's place in local history but have not come across anything else relating to that story.



According to Find a Grave, the earliest burial (although unmarked) there is of a John McKinney, whose wife Evaline, was born a Greenwood. According to deed records, the land belonged to her father originally, so it is my assumption that she and her first husband are buried there because the land was left to her by her father. At the time, my Burleson ancestors lived next door. The land was left to her children in her will and, in turn, purchased from her descendants by my great grandparents in the 1940s. I include these details in case any connection to these families helps explain the legend. I wondered, if this article reaches anyone with any ties to the cemetery or the area, if you may have heard this legend and have any details to add? Thanks, cousins!

