

Many old plots neglected

Family cemeteries full of history

Stark reminders of this area's history can be found in family cemeteries on the old homestead farms.

In the simpler times of the 1830s to 1850s, many settlers who had put down roots set aside special areas on their farms to bury their own. Through the years as homestead farms changed hands, some of the cemeteries have been neglected, contrary to the hopes of their founders.

TYPICAL of the "endangered" family plots is the one that goes by the name of the Silvers Cemetery

Looking back

1-5-1985

By Rose McIlveen

south of Bloomfield in Greene County. It is the burial place of the family of Thomas Bradford, one of the founders of the county.

Bradford, who was born in North

Carolina in 1780, was related to John Bradford, Mayflower passenger and governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Due to the rigors of the New England climate, some of his family migrated to the Carolinas.

In 1814, Thomas headed west and scouted for a likely homestead in the Indiana Territory. Because of the hostility of the Indians at that time, he was warned to return to North Carolina. Two years later he returned to settle on land presently located south of Bloomfield.

As sheriff pro tem, Bradford took the initiative of organizing Greene County's first government in 1821. Election of the county's first commissioners was held at his house, and it was also the site of the first court. In addition to the sheriff's office, Bradford held others, including that of associate judge.

MARTHA BRADFORD, who had married Thomas in North Carolina, preceded him in death by 15 months

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