

**THE BILLY TROGDON CEMETERY (aka Trogdon Burying Ground)
Previously misnamed Allred-Trogdon Cemetery**

The Billy Trogdon Cemetery is located on the original land of William Trogdon Jr., born circa 1720 in Maryland. The Trogdon family moved to then Orange County, NC about 1753 and appears on the Orange County 1755 Tax List. In 1799 when Randolph County was formed, William Jr.'s land was situated in what then became a part of Randolph County. William Jr., died in 1805 and is buried on his land in the family cemetery, the Billy Trogdon Cemetery; his grave marked with a still legible hand-inscribed primitive rock. He is buried among children, grandchildren and many related family members.

This family cemetery became, over time, an expansive family cemetery with many families that had intermarried with the Trogdons being buried at the cemetery. Some of the surnames represented in the cemetery are Trogdon, Allred, Ferree, Hammer, York, Julian, Diffie and certainly many more that we have yet and may never locate their graves.

In 2002, the East Coast Allred Family Association began the valiant cause of saving this cemetery and its then current owner, Mr. Alton Garner deeded the cemetery to the ECAFA. Since that time, ongoing efforts to preserve and protect the cemetery have continued. The Trogdon Family Historical Society has had the cemetery plotted and based upon this blue print, it is possible this cemetery could hold well over 200 graves. With approximately ½ of the cemetery surveyed, 76 marked graves have been located. These “marked” graves vary from actual fully engraved headstones, as well as stones obviously made by family members, who personally carved full birth and death dates in the stones, down to crudely etched initials in a flat stone, or simple unmarked fieldstones used as headstones and footstones. The Billy Trogdon Cemetery appears to be the largest family cemetery located in Randolph County.

17 distinct rows of graves have been identified in the cemetery, with the longest row of graves revealing 21 marked graves. The oldest grave found in the cemetery is D.H. 1790. The latest burial we have located to date is William Trogdon (Grandson of William who died in 1805) who was buried alongside his wife, Elizabeth Gilliam Trogdon, his death in 1864. The plotting, documenting and photographing of each grave or potential site of a grave is an ongoing project and remains a long term commitment for both the Trogdon Family Historical Society and the East Coast Allred Family Association.

Buried in the cemetery are three men who are documented to have provided goods or services during the American Revolution. William Trogdon Jr. c1720-1805, William Allred c1735-1825 and Samuel Trogdon c1750-1831. These three patriots have been recognized by the Daughters of The American Revolution, as well as the Sons of the American Revolution. Samuel Trogdon was also named in the December 1796 NC General Assembly act to establish the town of Asheborough on the lands of Jesse Henley. Samuel Trogdon is named in this document as one of the five men named as commissioners and were responsible for “laying off and carrying on the said town. A newspaper article from The Randolph Tribune dated July 10, 1938, confirms Samuel’s place in the history of the establishment of the town of Asheborough.

In summation, The Billy Trogdon Cemetery, a large, multifamily cemetery, situated on the original lands of William Trogdon, Jr., along the Deep River in Franklinville, is held in perpetuity by the East Coast Allred Family Association. The ECAFA continues to work tirelessly alongside the Trogdon Family Historical Society to maintain and preserve the cemetery, which stands as a memorial to the history of Randolph County and these many associated founding residents.

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