

THE CHILDREN OF FRANCIS MARION AND MARY JANE (SHURLEY) DOBBS

1. EULA RADCLIFF DOBBS MITCHELL

Eula was the first daughter of Francis Marion and Mary Jane. She was born 9 February, 1876 in DeKalb County, Georgia. On the 28th of October, 1893 she married Jerome Wesley Mitchell in DeKalb County. (page 412 Marriage Book F).

They lived in a three room house on Miller Road, near Lithonia, adding to it later on. A picture of the three room house can be found on page 29, Vanishing DeKalb. They had four daughters, Eula Mae, Nona Belle, Violet Cleo and Nellie Jo. A picture of the first three girls can be seen on page 134 of the book, Vanishing DeKalb. Nona Belle died before Nellie Jo was born.

Eula Mae married Ben Edd Thomas; Violet Cleo married C.T. Bullard; both marriages in DeKalb County. Nellie Jo married Joe Braswell in Rockdale County, Georgia and later Jack Burt Bradberry in Ringold, Georgia.

Eula and Wesley Mitchell owned land on Miller Road and farmed. They also had a store near the house.

From her obituary in the Walton Tribune, Monroe, Georgia (contributed by Nell Bradberry): "Mrs. Mitchell was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church, DeKalb County. She died in DeKalb County Hospital, 1 August, 1978. At age 100 she recovered quickly following surgery at Emory Hospital, and at the age of 102½ she was the oldest tax payer in DeKalb County."

She had lived all her life in DeKalb County and in the same house since she was eighteen. For many years she was a foster mother through the DeKalb Juvenile Court. She specialized in growing flowers and gardening, having worked her last garden at age 95.

She was the widow of Wesley Mitchell."

She was survived by three daughters, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She was buried in Wesley Chapel Methodist Church cemetery, alongside of her husband who died in 1945.

On her hundredth birthday she was feted at home with a large party. She said she enjoyed it so much she was going to have another one the next month.

Earlier she had said that if she had not gotten old age in her knees she would have married again. For many years she wrote a neighborhood column for the DeKalb New Era.

2. EDNA ETHEL DOBBS

Edna Dobbs was the second daughter of Francis Marion and Mary Jane (Shurley) Dobbs. She was born 28 August, 1877, DeKalb County, Georgia. She was married to Adolphus Brunella Pattillo 17 December, 1902 with Rev. W.H. Cox officiating. (DeKalb County Marriage Book G, page 428.)

They lived in the Kirkwood section of the County before moving to their farm on Rock Springs Road, near Evans Mill Road. This was their home and farmland until they died. While Brunella farmed, Edna canned and preserved the produce, storing it in a large pantry, jar after jar!

They had five children, Hooper Alexander, Dorris Nevelyn, Mary Susan, Marion McPherson, and Crabell Ross.

Hooper married Ethel Floree Goddard; Dorris married William Otto Ragsdale; Mary married Charles Wesley Tate; Mack (McPherson) married Margaret Louise Kotal; and Ross married Mary Kate Kotal, sister of Margaret Louise.

Brunella died 15 October, 1962 and Edna died two months later, on 14 December, 1962. Both are buried at Resthaven Cemetery on Candler Road, presently named Resthaven Garden of Memories.

At family gatherings they always seemed to be so loving and caring.

3. FRANCIS MARION DOBBS, JR.

Francis Marion Dobbs, Jr. was the third child and the only son of Francis Marion and Mary Jane Shurley Dobbs. He was born in DeKalb County, GA, 4 August, 1877. He left DeKalb County in 1907 and lived in many areas. He was married to Keren Happuch 19 January, 1908 in Pineville, S.C. After that he lived in Charlotte, N.C., Norfolk, Va., Memphis, TN. and New Orleans, LA. It is interesting to note that his wife's name was taken from the Bible. Keren Happuch was one of the last three daughters of Job.

Eight children were born to them: Merrill Godwin, Neil Raeford, Cecil Irwin, Earl Stanley, Ruby Irene, Anita Mae, Howard Franklin, and James Metter.

He undertook many ventures and was successful in them all. (See a page about these in the back of the book.)

Also see a page in the back of the booklet about the visit he had, after many years of separation, from his four sisters, along with a letter he wrote to

He is buried around

4. NELLIE DOBBS PARK was the fourth child of Francis Marion, Sr. and Mary Jane Shurley. She was born 14 October, 1883, in DeKalb County, Georgia. She acquired an "Affidavit by Parents, Aunts, tc." on the 11 of September, 1948, to serve as her birth certificate. It was signed by Mrs. Edna Pattillo, her sister.

We have been told that her original name was Johnny Nell, but that she did not like that. The name is borne out by the fact that Nell Bradberry, her niece, was named for her. (Nellie Jo).

She answered to many names: Nell, Nellie, Miss Nellie, and Mama Nell. Most of the family members other than her children called her "Mama Nell."

Their children were Russell Branson, Frank Lawton, Mary Loyle, Robert Wilson, Warner Hill and Rebecca.

Their house, on Rock Springs Road, DeKalb County, off Panola Road, was where the present Masonic Lodge is located. She had married Sidney Johnson Park 29 December, 1903. They had applied for a marriage license on Christmas Eve. Their marriage certificate was signed by J.B. Davis, J.P. It can be found on page 48, DeKalb County Marriage Book H.

Sidney farmed until he was afflicted with Rheumatic Arthritis and Asthma. Branson and Lawton were babies and the story has been told that when she would take water, etc. to Sidney in the field, she would put the boys' dress skirts under the bed posts to keep them safe.

When Sidney could work no longer the boys took over, until they scattered into Decatur and Atlanta.

Marjorie Park Grandy, her granddaughter, wrote a paper about Nell, from recorded conversations with her. Marjorie and her husband Len Grandy live in Whittier, California. Some of her writings can be found in other areas of this Booklet.

Nell had a strikingly sweet disposition and could see humor almost anywhere. A favorite story about her is this: When she took her first trip, via bus, to California, she chose a window seat so she could see the countryside scenery. Her seat mate kept talking to her and the subject of funerals came up, and the other woman said she hated funerals. Miss Nellie saw her escape route and said, "O, I just love a good funeral." That ended the conversation.

Sidney died 2 April 1936 and Nellie died 18 March, 1960. Both are buried at Macedonia Baptist Cemetery, DeKalb County, Georgia.

5. SAMILLA SCOTT DOBBS WINFREY , (Sam Scott) was the fifth child of Francis Marion and Mary Jane. She was born 9 February, 1875 in DeKalb County, Georgia. She was married to George Terry Winfrey, 12 June, 1910, under the name Miss S.S. Dobbs. The certificate can be found in Book I, DeKalb Marriage records.

They farmed on property on Rockland Road. A huge oak tree still stands at the front of the homeplace. After Terry died, Scott moved to Decatur, on College Avenue.

They had five children, Keren Belva, Shurley, Benarr, Carrol Lamar, and Edith Burrelle. Shurley and Benarr both died as small children. Both Belva and Burrelle lived in Maine, whild Lamar remained in DeKalb County.

She was interested in the Dobbs Family History and gathered much information which she sent to Cecil Dobbs, Jr., in California. That is the source of much of what we know about the family today.

Both Scott and Terry and the two baby children are buried in the Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery, DeKalb County, on the corner of Rock Springs and Panola Roads.

THE CHILDREN OF JOHN ROBERT AND MARTHA JANE SHERWOOD DOBBS

Correction: John Robert and Martha Jane are not buried in the Sewell Methodist Church Cemetery as stated in the 1993 Booklet. They are buried in the Almon Cemetery, Almon, Georgia.

1. WILLIAM NELSON DOBBS, the first child of John Robert and Martha Jane, was born 22 June, 1864. On the 1870 Newton County Census he was listed as age six, and on the 1880 Soundex Census he was listed as sixteen, at home.

From the book, History of Henry County, we found the following: Talitha Hazeltine Harper, 14 August, 1865, was the daughter of Robert Henry Harper, born 17 September, 1844, died August or September, 1910 or 1911, and Sarah Elizabeth Hopkins, born 1846.

Talitha married William Nelson Dobbs in Henry County on 20 December, 1884. They had nine children: Blannie, who married Emory Young and later J.W. Johnston; Annie D. who married Otis Ray; Lura; John Henry; Clint Barkston; Robert Lee (Bob); Andy; William Edward; and Jesse.

In an article from The Covington News, 9 December, 1914, we learned that he and W.T. Wallace moved to South Georgia. In the same article it was mentioned that he had lived on the east side of Yellow River in Newton County.

A list in last year's booklet says that William had eleven children. Since a second marriage took place, that could be true. The second marriage has not been researched.

2. HESTER ANN DOBBS, the second child of John Robert and Martha Jane, was born 6 April, 1866, probably in Newton County. On the 1870 Newton County Census, she was four years old. From Wanda Brownings notes we found the marriage of John Robert was in Gwinnett County. William Nelson and Hester Ann could possibly have been born there.

She married William T. Wallace 27 December, 1896. (Newton County Marriage Book X 1894-1902.)

Hester Ann was four on the 1870 Newton County Census and fourteen on the 1880 Soundex Census, Henry County.

In the 1914 write-up on Jesse Dobbs and Clara Belle Nelms, it was said that "Messrs W.N. Dobbs and W.T. Wallace have moved to South Georgia."

3. EMMA ADLINE DOBBS was the third child of John Robert and Martha Jane Dobbs, having been born 18 March, 1868, according to a paper given to us about her and her family. The source of the paper is not known. Emma Adline died 17 September, 1954.

She married Rev. Marion Franklin Underwood 26 December, 1899. He was born 25 September, 1879 and died 20 December, 1920. Their marriage record is confirmed in the Newton County Marriage Book 1894-1902.

Their children were: Charles Lawson who married Bertha Peek; Jessie Albert who married Camilla Inez Johnson; Peggy June who married Clyde E. Bryant; Marion Franklin who married Gloria Jane Skinner.

Check the article in the back of the booklet. It seems somewhat vague at the end.

4. GEORGE F. DOBBS was the fourth child of John Robert and Martha Jane. He was born 22 March, 1870, and was listed on the 1870 Newton County Census as three months old. He married M.G. Sockwell (Minnie) 2 December, 1894. Some records give only initials. The marriage was recorded in the Newton County Marriage Book X, 1894-1902.

The Covington News article from Almon, 9 December, 1914, says, "We are sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs. George Dobbs. Hope she will soon recover."

Both George and Minnie are buried at Almon Cemetery, Almon, Georgia.

5. JOHNNY DOBBS was the fifth child, born 2 February, 1872, but died in 1873.

6. THOMAS L. DOBBS, sixth child of John Robert and Martha Jane, was born 17 May, 1874. "Tommy" was eight on the 1880 Soundex Census of Henry County. We do not know whether or others were born in Henry or Newton County.

We know that he was married to Maud Rice, 26 November, 1890, from Newton County Marriage Book XI, 1904 to 1912.

He and his family were found in Rockdale County on the 1920 Soundex Census. Thomas was listed as 48, Maud as 40; daughter Rosie, 19; son Pleas, 19; son Chester, 13; and daughter Ollie Ruth, 11.

The 1914 article from Almon, in The Covington News, states that Tom Rice moved to the Will Dobbs place on the east side of the Yellow River. Tom Rice might have been Maud's father or brother.

Maud was born 1879 and died in 1945. Thomas died in 1957 and both are buried in the Almon Cemetery, Almon, Georgia.

7. CHARLES P. DOBBS (CHARLIE) the seventh child of John Robert and Martha Jane was born 21 November, 1876. He was listed on the 1880 Newton County Soundex Census as age 6. He could have been born in either Henry or Newton County. He married Ethel Neeley on the 23 October, 1906, according to Newton County Marriage Book XI-1904-1912.

He and his family were on the 1920 Newton County Soundex Census. He was listed as C. L. Dobbs, age 43, in Almon Town. Ethel was 39 and son James, 5. Living with them were Mrs. Tom Neeley, his mother-in-law, age 66 and Roy, age 36, a cousin.

Charlie died in 1955. Ethel B. Dobbs, born 1880, died in 1957. Both are buried in Almon Cemetery.

8. JOSEPH E. DOBBS was child number 8 in the family of John Robert and Martha Jane. He was born 31 March, 1878. He was four years old on the 1880 Henry County Soundex Census. (Census figures are not always correct.) He was born either in Henry or Newton County.

He married Evie P. Simms on the 29 February, 1912, according to Newton County Marriage Book XI, !()\$ _ !(!@. Nothing more has been found about him.

The list in the 1993 Booklet says that he and Evie had six children, but that has not been researched.

Joseph died in 1956. Evie had died in 1937. Both are buried in Almon Cemetery.

9. ROBERT WESLEY DOBBS was child number nine in the household of John Robert and Martha Jane Dobbs. From the Family Sheet sent to us by Daisy Cowan we know that he was born in Covington, Georgia, Newton County, 9 March, 1880, and that he married Alice Mae Hinton on 29 December, 1912. The marriage was also found in the Newton County Marriage Book XI 1904 -1912.

His family was listed on the 1920 Soundex Census, Newton County, Military District 1717, Almon Town, taken on 12 January, Household 109, Family 123; Arthur W. Dobbs, age 38, head of household; Alice, wife, age 26; Arthur, son and Daisy, daughter.

His wife, Alice, was born 15 August, 1892 and died 5 June, 1972. Robert Wesley died 23 February, 1978. Both he and Alice are buried in Covington, Newton County, Georgia.

10. MARY VICTORIA DOBBS, the tenth child of John Robert and Martha Jane, was born 17 April, 1882. She never married. We found her on the 1920 Soundex Census, Newton County, living with her mother. The census was from the Militia District 1717, Almon Town. She was age 37.

She died 21 November, 1937 and is buried at Almon Cemetery with her parents.

11. DAVID T. DOBBS the eleventh child of John Robert and Mary Jane, was born 6 April, 1884, probably in Newton County, Georgia.

He married Daisy Sockwell on 21 August, 1908, according to Newton County Marriage Book XI 1904-1912. We found him on the 1920 Soundex Census, Almon District, living in Almon: D.T. Dobbs, age 35; Daisy, wife, age 28; Harold, son, age 10; Sarah, daughter, age three. All were born Georgia.

David (Dave) died 1976 at age 92. To date, we do not know where he and Daisy were buried.

12. JESSE LEWIS DOBBS was the twelfth child of John Robert and Martha Jane. Thanks to Hazel Stowe we have a good record of his family, and also thanks to an article from The Covington News, in 1914, an interesting write-up about him.

He was born 13 July, 1887 and died 11 July 1958. He married Clara Belle Nelms, in Pace, Georgia, in early December, 1914. Clara Belle was born 7 February, 1894 and died 23 February, 1935. Both are buried in Almon Cemetery.

They had four children: Nannie Mae, Hazel Doris, Linnie Kathleen, and James Henry.

The record given to us by Hazel Stowe is beautifully done, with a lot of information. But it is faulty because the writer is not named and the paper is not dated. Also, there are no placenames given.

The same can be said about the Underwood paper we were given. That can be found in the back of the Booklet.

The article follows:

THE COVINGTON NEWS, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1914
ALMON

As DR. Muggins says, we are having some weather. About ten days wet weather, whild people are crying hard times. Everything is getting mighty soft out here and the motion prevails that we abolish the weather bureau and let Bro. Von Herman try farming for awhile.

Rev. T.J. McMillan filled his regular appointment here Saturday and Sunday.

Genial and clever Jessis Dobbs got something lika a swimming in his head Sunday. He circled about here a few times and pulled up in front of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Nelms home and took up their beautiful daughter , Miss Clara, and hit a bee line for Pace. The next stop was in front of the Methodist parsonage. Then J.S. Askeu was called to take part in the proceedings and now it is Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Dobbs. Mr. Walter McCart and Miss Mary Dobbs accompanied them to Pac
May peace and pleasure be their portion over the sea of life.

A lot of our good people are losing sleep over debts that they made in the best of faith, but just cannot meet them at the present price of cotton. The man that has money can find a plenty opportunities now to do good.

Almon Methodist Church is to have a Christmas tree during the holidays.

Rev. Mr. Johnson of Porterdale is to preach at the Baptist Church here next Sunday.

Mrs. Nora Womack and children are moving back to Atlanta.

Messrs Tom Rice, Berry Atkinson and Bob Dobbs have moved to the Will Dobbs place on the East side of Yellow River.

We are sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs. George Dobbs. Hope she will soon recover.

Messrs W.N. Dobbs and W.T. Wallace have moved to South Georgia.

(Here the article was cut off.)

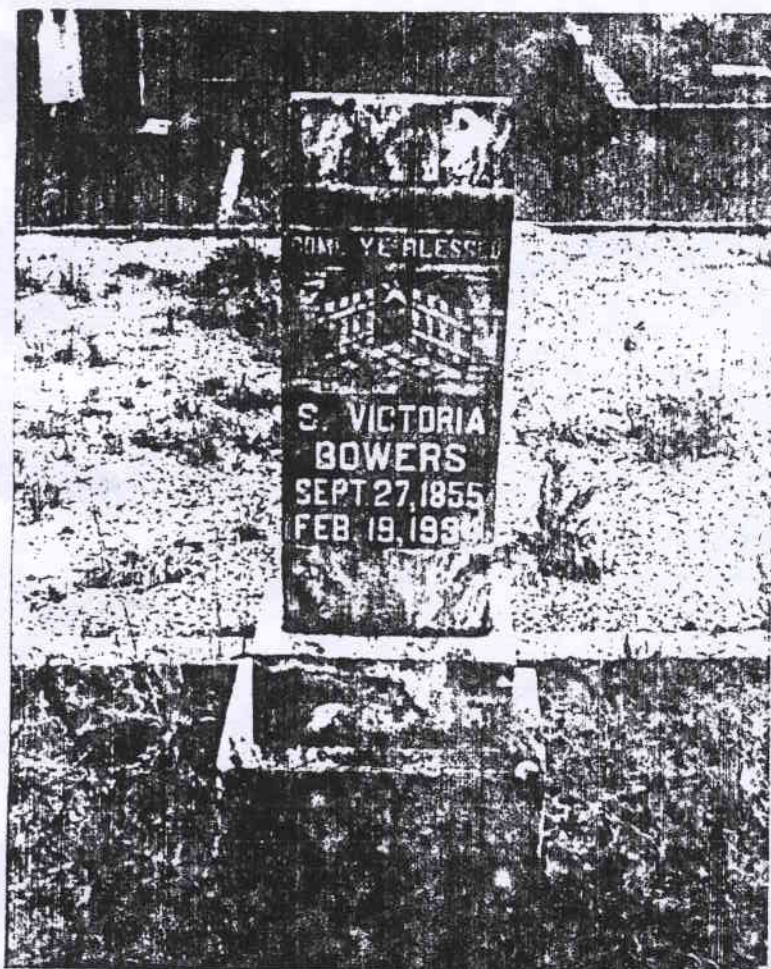
13. CHARLIE T. DOBBS was adopted by John Robert and Martha Jane. He was on the 1920 Soundex Census, Newton County, Militia District 1717, Household 100, Family 114, Almon Town. It showed Mrs. J.R. Dobbs, Head of Household, age 77; Mary Dobbs, daughter, age 37; and C.T., son, age 18.

According to an unidentified note we have that he married Ruby Sockwell.

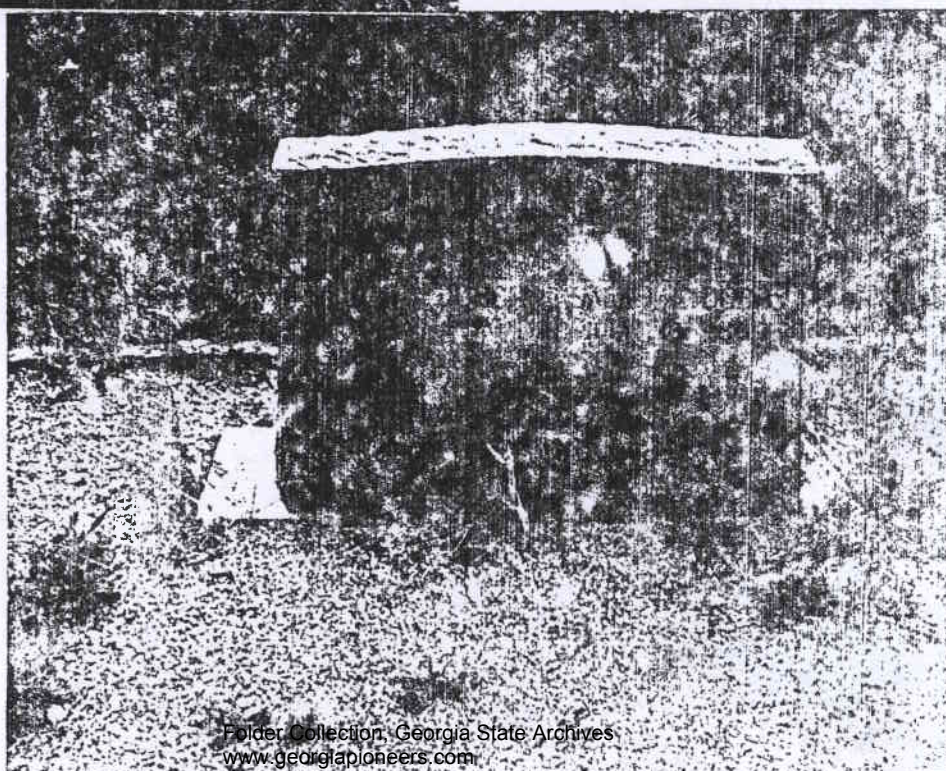
Emma A. Dobles born - Mar. 18, 1868 (D) Sept. 17, 1954
 (M) Rev. Marion Franklin Underwood (B) Sept. 25, 1879 (D) Dec. 20, 1920
 Dec. 26, 1899 A. Charles Lawson Underwood (B) Oct. 19, 1900 (D) Jan. - 1966
 (M) Bertha Peek born Aug. 30, 1902 died Aug. 24, 1981
 (C) Harold Peek Underwood Oct. 31, 1929 died Aug. 1984
 (M) Mona Cochran (B) Jan. 28, 1927
 (C) Harold P. Underwood Jr. (B) Oct. _____
 (M) _____

B. Jessie Albert Underwood born Oct. 27, 1902 died May 20, 1964
 (M) Camilla Inez Johnson (B) Jan. 19, 1909 (D) Nov. 11, 1986
 (C) Robert Hylier Underwood (B) Dec. 15, 1928
 (M) June 23, 1950 Joyce Juanita Compton (B) Nov. 26, 1932
 (C) Sandra Charlene Underwood (B) Feb. 4, 1957
 (M) Mar. 18, 1978 Ronald O. Stevens (B) April 18, 1949
 (C) Jessica Lynn Stevens (B) June 26, 1981
 (C) Tiffany Michelle Stevens (B) Nov. 30, 1989
 (C) Shelia Constance Underwood (B) Dec. 9, 1958
 (M) Nov. 22, 1986 Edwin Noel Saleshee (B) April 10, 1957
 (C) Barbara Jean Underwood (B) May 5, 1930
 (M) Aug. 24, 1951 Wilmer Joe Moore (B) Jan. 13, 1928
 (C) Joe Franklin Moore (B) July 31, 1955
 (M) Ramona Boudette (B) Nov. 29, 1950
 (C) Danielle Moore (B) Sept. 7, 1977
 (C) Peggy Lynn Moore (B) Sept. 10, 1959
 (M) _____ Frankie Moss (B) June _____
 (C) Kelly Moss (B) Jan. 14, 1983
 (C) David Eugene Moore (B) July 22, 1964
 (M) Jean Hening (B) July 29, 1964
 (C) Daniel Moore (B) _____
 (C) Peggy June Underwood (B) July 15, 1931
 (M) Clyde E. Bryant (B) Feb. 10, 1931
 (C) Janice Clydene Bryant (B) Nov. 26, 1951
 (M) _____ Kenneth Lockhart (B) _____

(d) Marion Franklin Underwood (B) July 11, 1936
 (m) Gloria Jane Skinner (B) Mar. 19, 1938
 (a) Marion Phillips Underwood (B) July 25, 1961
 (m) Sept. 25, 1982 Patrice Ann Fennell (B) _____
 (a) Joshua Thomas Underwood (B) Sept. 18, 1980
 (b) Tasha Ann Underwood (B) Jan. 16, 1984
 (c) Matthew Jason Underwood (B) Dec. 25, 1985
 C. Firley Robert Underwood (B) Oct. 20, 1906 (D) Oct. 4, 1983
 (m) Olive Camp (B) Oct. 15, 1908 (D) Nov. 26, 1983



Robert L. Dobbs
Oct. 4, 1870
June 6, 1913



Sarah E. Dobb
July 18, 1869
Oct. 4, 1958

Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery, Decatur, Georgia, GA
Located at intersection of Wesley Chapel Road and Snapfinger Road.

