

Plonk Family Cemetery

Visitor's Guide

Welcome

Thank you for visiting the Plonk Family Cemetery. It is about 200 years old. It is located just 0.3 miles from the original Plonk Family home place of Jacob Plunk II and his wife Christina Jane Kiser. It is on land acquired by the first Plonks to settle in North Carolina probably before 1766.



The [1790 United States Census](#) suggests that Jacob Plunk I and his wife lived nearby, and thus could be buried here. Their son Jacob Plunk II and his wife Christina Jane Kiser are buried here. Their son Joseph Plunk and his wife Barbara Rudisill have inscribed gravestones. The land is along Indian Creek and has trees that have been untouched for many decades. It is an attractive place for families to visit.

Read this document during your visit. Retain a copy if you cannot access the same document on the web at <http://www.elehistory.com/gen/plonk/cemetery/PlonkFamilyCemeteryVisitorsGuide.pdf>. Otherwise, leave the document here for the next visitor.

You can experiment with the [Plonk Cemetery web application](#) using *Google Maps* technology.

Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission and the [Lincoln County Historical Association](#) own 3.2 acres surrounding the cemetery. The boundary includes the field, Indian Creek embankment, and small stream. See [surveyor's map](#). It is an official historic site of Lincoln County. If you have questions or want to report a problem, please contact the Historical Association at telephone number 704-748-9090 or at 403 East Main Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092.

Driving directions

The cemetery is off of highway NC150, just east of the bridge over Indian Creek. That is about 3 miles west of Lincolnton, NC, and about 1 mile east of Crouse, NC. Turn onto Old Lincolnton Crouse Road and immediately park on the west or field-side of the road. The cemetery is across the field under the grove of trees. See online [aerial map](#) and [topographical map](#).

Do's and Don'ts Rules

The Plonk Family Cemetery is about 200 years old. Here we respect the lives, work and struggles of those buried. It is our responsibility to carefully preserve the cemetery for future generations. Please consider the consequences of an action over many years. Please supervise children and teach them this respect. Please consider the sensibilities of all future visitors and do only what everyone would consider appropriate for an old cemetery. Please:

Do not dig or do anything that cannot be reversed.

Do not move rocks because some are headstones or footstones.

Some gravestones are obviously deteriorating. The [Chicora Foundation](#) advises against the use of shaving cream. A flashlight oriented at a grazing angle will often reveal a difficult to read inscription. Also, a stone rubbing usually results in microscopic deterioration. Chalk and crayon may never be removed and at best require expensive cleaning. Metal tools should never be used near a gravestone.

Do not plant flowers. It is OK to leave cut or potted flowers.

Do not add ornamentation. It is OK if the cemetery continues to appear the way it has for 200 years.

Do not leave modern trinkets such as birdhouses, birdfeeders, wind chimes, toys, etc. that are inconsistent with an early 1800s cemetery.

Do not unnecessarily disturb the ground since the Historical Association may have an ongoing project.

Do not perform maintenance, improvements, or restoration without first contacting the Historical Association. Do not cut trees.

Spelling: Plonk and Plunk

Gravestones of the oldest Family members spell the Family name as “Plunk.” Apparently, that was the original German spelling. Some, but not all, descendents changed their spelling to “Plonk.” This document spells each individual’s name as he or she did during his or her lifetime. It is important to remember that Plunks and Plonks are the same family.

Buried Individuals

At present, we have the following information about buried individuals. Relation is to present-day oldest Plonk generation.

Known Burials

Individual	Birth	Death	Age	Relation
Jacob Plunk II	about 1747	15 Sept 1845	98	3 rd ggfather
Christina Kiser	1755	30 Jul 1823	68	3 rd ggmother
Joseph Plunk	1 May 1788	1 Jul 1888	100	2 nd ggfather
Barbara Rudisill	1 Sept 1795	5 Oct 1864	69	2 nd ggmother
Fanny Moore (Tutherow)		15 Apr 1848	24	1 st cousin 3x
David L. Tutherow	1854	21 May 1858	4	2 nd cousin 2x
Nancy C. Heafner		24 Oct 1887	16	
Malinda Harris (Heafner)	1835	19 Oct 1887	53	2 nd cousin 2x
Philip Plonk	17 Apr 1826	20 Mar 1863	36	gguncle
Mary Jane Beam	23 Feb 1832	31 Dec 1913	81	ggaunt
Michael Columbus Plonk	27 Oct 1853	7 Aug 1880	26	1 st cousin 2x
Francis K. Hauss	about 1850	16 Jan 1853	3	2 nd cousin 2x
Barbara A. S. E. Hauss	about 1853	20 Jul 1856	3	2 nd cousin 2x
Susan Hauss	13 Jul 1813	1814	1	1 st cousin 3x
Henry Shell	1830	25 Oct 1831	1	2 nd cousin 2x

Probable Burials

Individual	Birth	Death	Age	Relation
Catherine Plunk	1784	Jul 1860	78	2 nd ggaunt
Heinrich Hass	1788	Aft 25 May 1858	>70	2 nd gguncle
Elizabeth Hauss	1811	Aft 1870	>59	1 st cousin 2x
John Shell	Abt 1806	Aft 1870	>64	1 st cousin 2x
Susannah Plunk	Abt 1788	1889	101	2 nd ggaunt
George Tutherow	Abt 1785	Bef 1880	<95	2 nd gguncle
Solomon Tutherow	1813	Aft 1860	>47	1 st cousin 2x
Sarah Hauss	1818	Aft 1860	>42	1 st cousin 2x
Jacob Plunk	Abt 1818	Abt 1831	13	gguncle

Sarah Hauss was second wife of Solomon Tutherow. This Jacob Plunk, oldest son of Joseph and Barbara, drowned in Indian Creek at age 13. It is not recorded if the body was recovered. If so, it was probably buried in the cemetery.

Possible Burials

Individual	Birth	Death	Age	Relation
Jacob Plunk I	Abt 1725	Aft 1785	>60	4 th ggfather
Wife of Jacob Plunk I				4 th ggmother
Peter Plunk	Abt 1756	1824	68	3 rd gguncle
Elizabeth Kiser	Abt 1765	Aft 1824	>59	3 rd ggaunt
Lawson Heafner				

There is no known evidence where these individuals are buried. Their kinship, death dates, and location in North Carolina make their burial here possible. Peter Plunk was brother of Jacob Plunk II.



Row of fieldstone pairs includes Jacob Plunk II and Christina Kiser graves.

Most graves are aligned east-west. By tradition, bodies will face the rising sun on Judgment Day.



Fallen gravestones for
Joseph Plunk, 1788-1888, and his wife Barbara Rudisill, 1795-1864
2nd great-grandparents of Plonks from Kings Mountain, NC

All known [Jacob Plunk I descendants](#) are listed in outline form. The [full family-tree database](#) has 3001 descendants, including their spouses, of Jacob Plunk II.

Gravestone Inscriptions

Images of gravestones appear on the virtual tour below. Gravestone inscriptions are:

JOSEPH PLUNK/BORN/May 1, 1788/DIED/July 1, 1888
Barbra Plunk/was born Sep ^t 1 st 1795/& died Oc ^t 5 th 1864/Aged 69 years 1m ^o / & 4days
MICHAEL C PLONK/BORN/Oct 27 1853/Died Aug 7 1880/Aged 26 Y 9 M/Blessed are the dead/who die in the Lord/for they rest from/their labors and their/works do follow them
[Masonic Symbol]PHILIP PLONK/BORN/April 17 1826/DIED/March 20, 1863 [replica made 2014]
IN/memory of/Fanny Tutherow/died April 15 th /1848/Aged 24 years/[sunburst, German icon]
David L/Tutherow/died May21/1858/Aged 4Y 1 M/20 D
In memory of/Henry Shell/died Oct 25 th /1831 aged 1
NANCY C. HEAFNER/DIED/October 24, 1887/Aged 16 ys 9 ms & 8 ds
SUSAN HAUSS
Barbara A S E Hauss/died July 20 th /1856 aged 3 Years
Francis K. Hauss/died Jan 16 th 1853/Aged 3 Years

Cemetery Census, missing gravestones?

After viewing the cemetery, you may question if some gravestones are missing. Joseph Plunk, 1788-1888, was the last person buried in the cemetery. An [account of his funeral](#) suggests that other unmarked graves were known at that time. Unfortunately, no written record is known. The first known census was made by Lincoln County Historical Association members Ann Keener, Richard Goodson and Frances Goodson during the 1960s. Ann Dellinger, historian for that association, made a second census in 1980 (Dellinger 1980). Since then, only one gravestone, Malinda Harris Heafner, 1835-1887, is known missing. The top of [Philip Plonk's, 1826-1863, gravestone](#), which had a [Masonic Symbol](#), was missing. A replica was made in 2014. There is a crumbling slate-rock sticking out of the ground that appears to be a very old gravestone. These are the only known missing gravestones.

German settler lifestyle

Patricia Nesbit studies the history of German settlers in the Carolina backcountry. She discovered that they were Protestants who first immigrated to Pennsylvania during 1709–1775. They relocated to the Carolinas using wagons. Like most Americans, they were farmers. Unlike other Americans, they built log cabins using finished square logs. Men wore wide-brimmed hats. Their distinctive foods were dumplings, pork

including pigtails, cabbage, gingerbread, fruit cobbler, cider, and clabbered milk. Singing and *Dance Frolics* were favorite pastimes. A marriage was at the bride's home on either Tuesday or Thursday. Usually, a father divided his land equally among all his sons. German folktales included *Christ Kindle* or *Kris Kringle*, and *Little Red Riding Hood*. Superstitions included carrying a rabbit's foot and knock on wood. They introduced the custom of firing black-powder muskets at midnight New Year's morning. That custom is still celebrated in nearby Cherryville, NC. (Nesbit 2007)

Stories of Individuals

Jacob Plunk I

Jacob Plunk I and his wife may be buried here. They may be the one male and one female living in the Jacob Plunk household shown in the [1790 Census](#).

Jacob Plunk II, Patriot of the Revolution

Jacob Plunk II moved to North Carolina before the Revolutionary War. He was a Patriot in that war. He applied for a pension in 1832. You can read [Jacob Plunk's pension application](#). Pat Cloninger discovered the tradition, "Jacob Plunk II was a shoe-maker and carried a drawing of each man's feet so he could make shoes for them. All they had to do was to tell Jacob they needed a new pair of shoes. He would pull the pattern out of his saddle bag along with some leather and make the shoes." (Cloninger 2006)

Both Jacob Plunk II and his brother Peter Plunk's households appear in the United States [1790 Census](#). Those households appear separately in the [1810 Census](#). (Valpredo 2007–2008)

In 1930, Joseph Calvin Plunk, the textile manufacturer, erected a stone marker to commemorate the site. See [newspaper article](#). Its dimensions are 46x20x12 inches. In December 2006, the missing original bronze plaque was replaced.



Bronze plaque countersunk into stone marker, December 2006.

Bronze Plaque Contributors
Robert Thornton
Mary Evelyn Plunk Lucas & Rick Lucas
Rev. William McGuire Plunk
Martha Baker Rudisill
William Lee Anderson, III

Joseph Plunk and Barbara Rudisill

About 600 people attended [Joseph Plunk's 100th birthday](#), held just 0.3 miles away, on 1 May 1888. About 90 of his 146 descendants attended. You can read about the celebration in the 1888 [newspaper article](#).

Jacob Plunk, son of Joseph Plunk and Barbara Rudisill

About 1831, 13-year-old Jacob Plunk drowned in Indian Creek. He is probably buried here.

Salomae Hauss, daughter of Catherine Plunk and Heinrich Hauss

Salomae, or Susan, Hauss was born 13 July 1813 and baptized 29 August 1813 at the Old White Church. She was the daughter of Catherine Plunk and Heinrich Hauss. She died in 1814. Her twin sister Mary lived a full life. Her grave is the oldest known grave in the cemetery.

Nancy Moore (Fanny Tutherow)

In 1848, Nancy Moore died at age 24, perhaps during childbirth. Her gravestone is standing and prominent. It has German sunburst and quarter-sunburst icons. It is believed that Nancy came from the Moses Moore Family, which included Colonel John Moore, a noted loyalist leader during the American Revolution. His actions are described below.

Philip Plunk

When Philip Plunk died during the Civil War, he was a Confederate colonel in the Home Guard, a civil-defense organization. One of its duties was to catch deserters. You can read several orders sent to him by the North Carolina Adjutant General on webpages: [order1862-08-29](#), [order1862-11-26](#), [order 862-11-26](#), [order1862-12-05](#), and [order1863-02-09](#). Philip died on 20 March 1863. A replica of his original gravestone was made in 2014.

Jane Elizabeth Plunk, daughter of Joseph Plunk and Barbara Rudisill

Jane Elizabeth Plunk, 1828-1891, died of a snake bite in December 1891. The hibernating snake bit her when she entered a springhouse where butter and milk was stored. This story conveys the kind of risks our ancestors lived with every day. Jane Elizabeth was a daughter of Joseph Plunk and Barbara Rudisill, both buried in this cemetery. She married Allen Michael Baker and is probably buried in Cleveland County.

Jacob Plunk III

Jacob Plunk III helped finance the [first bridge over the Catawba River](#) at Horse Ford. It was north of Hickory and a little east of present-day Hwy321 bridge. It was a covered bridge. Initially, it allowed farmers west of the Catawba to get their livestock to railheads on the east side. It was used from 1852 until swept away by the 1916 flood (Freeze 1995, 149). He and his wife Catherine Costner are buried at [Philadelphia Lutheran Church](#), Gaston County.

Plunk Family timeline

You can read a [timeline of Plunk Family events](#).

Vision and Contributors

The vision is to preserve the oldest Plunk Family Cemetery under dignified and pleasant surroundings for now and in the future.

The following individuals, through their pledges and donations, rescued the cemetery from oblivion and made the strategic decision to purchase surrounding land when it was threatened by a road, cut trees, and dam.

Donor	Address
Rev. William McGuire Plonk	Martinsville, VA
William Lee Anderson, III	Charlotte, NC
Jim Morgan (Thomas Motley Plonk III)	Seattle, WA
Dr. James & Barbara Plonk	Charlotte, NC
John Thomas Anderson	Burke, VA
Tom and Karen Hager	Charlotte, NC
William Lee Anderson, Jr.	Charlotte, NC
Marie Plonk Babcock & Butch Babcock	Hull, GA
Robert Thornton	Lynchburg, VA
A. B. Y.	LaVale, MD
Martha Rudisill	Hendersonville, NC
Robert Carpenter	Gaston Co., NC
Bob Bowen	Fredericksbrg, VA
Jane Edwards	Atwater, CA
Ann Edwards	Gastonia, NC
Mary Ann Greenawalt	Bloomfield Hills, MI
Anonymous No.1	
E. Graham Bell	Gastonia, NC
Robert & Deborah Plonk	Mableton, GA
Dorcas Plonk	Kings Mountain, NC
G. W. Plonk	Kings Mountain, NC
Edwin & Katherine Anderson	Charlotte, NC
Anonymous No. 2	
Carroll Johnson	Crouse, NC
Mitzi & Chris Folk	Charlotte, NC

You can help support the cemetery through tax-deductible donations to the Lincoln County Historical Association. Donations checks can be made out to the Lincoln County Historical Association and sent to 403 East Main Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092, with a notation that it is for the Plonk Family Cemetery.

Physical Description

The cemetery is approximately 70 feet by 70 feet. It is on a knoll overlooking Indian Creek. There is a circle of stones in the center that may have been a flower garden. It is not known when it was built.



Plonk Cemetery during winter and summer. Extensive periwinkle groundcover in August.

In September 2007, the [Chicora Foundation](#) assessed the Plonk Cemetery. That [professional assessment](#) outlines how the cemetery can be protected in the future.

Plonk Home place

The Plonk Family home place was just 0.3 miles away (Chapman 2007). An 1820 legal document enumerated its structures. Ann Dellinger, historian of Lincoln County Historical Association, said they included: a “dwelling house,” a separate kitchen building for cooking, a loom house for spinning, weaving and other activities associated with making clothing, a smoke house for curing meat, a shop possibly for blacksmithing, a corn crib for storing corn to feed animals, a “still house” for making whiskey, and a spring house to keep a covered water supply and store items like milk and butter. The site also had a separate barn for animals. All were of log construction. There was also a garden. (Dellinger, email correspondence 2006–2008)

Indian Creek

Indian Creek is an important tributary of the South Fork of the Catawba River. It drains much of western Lincoln County. Here is a bit of interesting history about Indian Creek.

On 10 June 1780, loyalist Colonel John Moore held a secret meeting of 40 loyalists “in the woods on Indian Creek seven miles from Ramsour’s [Mill].” That quote is from page 53 of: Schenck, David, 1890, *North Carolina, 1780–1781: Being a History of the Invasion of the Carolinas by the British Army under Lord Cornwallis in 1780–1781*, Edwards & Broughton, Raleigh, NC.

These loyalists conspired to call out more loyalists. About 1000 embodied at Ramsour’s Mill a few days later. Patriots attacked and defeated these loyalists on 20 June 1780 in what became known as the Battle of Ramsour’s Mill. Colonel John Moore was court-martialed by British General Cornwallis.

Old Roadbed

About 30 to 50 feet beyond the cemetery is an old roadbed that may date from colonial times. It is a segment of Old Crouse Road.

It is known that on 24 January 1781, Cornwallis marched the British Army of about 2500 redcoats and over 100 wagons from Old Tryon Court House, south of present-day Cherryville, to Ramsour’s Mill, immediately north of present-day downtown Lincolnton. The marching column would have been about 3 miles long and no doubt was quite a spectacle to observe. Almost all of these troops were professional soldiers wearing their distinctive uniforms. The former royal Governor of North Carolina was present. There were hundreds of horses pulling wagons and artillery pieces. It is not known exactly where the British Army crossed Indian Creek. But a topological map and writings of historians imply that it could have happened near the Plonk Family Cemetery and perhaps on this old roadbed. This question could be resolved if the location of Given’s Mill was known. Cornwallis was disappointed with the slow ponderous baggage train. The next day, at Ramsour’s Mill, he ordered all inessential baggage destroyed including most of his and his officers’ personal property. (Nixon 1910)



Old roadbed leading down to ford across Indian Creek

Small stream, a water source for Plonk home place

Beyond the cemetery is a small stream that runs past the original Plonk home place about 0.3 miles upstream. No doubt, they used it as a water source.



Small stream. Water supply of Plonk home place
Partially washed-out bridge from modern times.

Virtual Tour

You can take a [virtual tour](#) of the cemetery surroundings.

Other things to do nearby

You can visit the [Kiser Cemetery](#) where Christina Kiser's father Lawrence Kiser (d:1786) and mother Sarah are buried. From Crouse, travel Webb's Chapel Road for about 2.5 miles. The cemetery is in Gaston County, very close to Lincoln County line. Turn right on New Ground Road. You will pass a doublewide mobile home that has been bricked and then come to a brick house. From this house, look to the left, behind the house, and you will see a grown up area that runs along a pasture fence. Follow this; it will turn into an old road. The Kiser Cemetery is on the left. It is a fairly long walk. There are about 25–30 gravestones, mostly Kisers. (Rudisill 2006–2010). You can read [Lawrence Kiser's will](#).

While in the area, you can visit the [Lincoln County Museum of History](#). It is located at 403 East Main Street, Lincolnton, NC. That is also the location of the [Historical Association](#).

You can visit the Ramsour's Mill battleground on the hill beside present-day Lincolnton High School just north of downtown Lincolnton.

You can visit the [Tryon County Resolves](#) monument that lists names of other family Patriots. The signers of this 1775 document pledged to take up arms to defend America. It predates the Declaration of Independence by one year. The monument is on highway NC274, about 4 miles south of Cherryville, NC. Before 1779, Tryon County included present-day Lincoln, Gaston, Cleveland and Rutherford Counties.

You can visit the historical [Philadelphia Lutheran Church](#) where Jacob Plonk III and his wife Catherine Costner are buried. It is at 1910 Philadelphia Church Road, Dallas, NC.

If you are related to John Jonas Plonk, son of Joseph Plunk and Barbara Rudisill above, you can visit [Plonk sites near Long Creek](#), including a 1700s-era iron furnace.

Near the cemetery, you can see a tressel bridge where a serious [railroad accident](#) occurred in 1880.

Important Questions

Important questions include:

What did the Plonks grow on their land? Were they self sufficient?

Are there documents from the 1800s that identify fieldstone graves?

How is Nancy Moore (Fanny Tutherow) related to the Moses Moore family?

Who built the stone and steel bridge over the small stream, and why?

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