

March 26, 1881 continued

was the first man to go into the mercantile business west of the Tennessee River...and assisted in laying off Holly Springs, Miss. where he moved in 1837, and from there to Memphis, Tenn. in 1843. He was an extensive planter, owning large plantations in Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee...he married Miss Martha Dunlap, a daughter of Hugh Dunlap /and Susanna Gilliam Dunlap/.../He? died in Shelby County, Tenn., February 17, 1881./His age at death listed in the Elmwood Cemetery register is cited as 76 years, 7 months and 26 days, hence born August 21, 1804./ The mother was born in Roane County, April 8, 1815 and is still living at the old homestead in Shelby County." (HISTORY OF TENNESSEE, Shelby County, Weston A. Goodspeed, Nashville, 1887, page 974)

The probate file #4640, of David S. Greer, in Shelby County, reveals that at his death he was survived by the widow, Martha and three sons (out of a family of ten children), Hugh D. Greer, David S. Greer, Jr. and John R. Greer, the latter of whom served as administrator of his father's estate (an intestate estate); the settlement was very modest, suggesting that he was "land poor." His widow, Martha Jane Greer, died May 15, 1888; both lie in unmarked graves (combined lot 24-94) in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis. Their known children, as determined from the Goodspeed article and tombstones on their family lot at Elmwood: Hugh Dunlap Greer, February 4, 1836-April 29, 1899; Richard Gilliam Greer, December 4, 1837-December 31, 1856; Susanna Searcy Greer, October 9, 1842-June 7, 1844; Robert Searcy Greer, Jan. 22, 1846-April 30, 1847; William Dunlap Greer, May 1, 1848-August 8, 1848; David Searcy Greer, Jr., born January 6, 1852; John Ripley Greer, March 10, 1855-May 28, 1931.

Buried among the Greers in Elmwood, with an imposing tombstone, was Martha Greer's brother, William Claiborne Dunlap (1798-1872), a distinguished citizen who never married and lived in the Greer household until his demise. (See his obituary in THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL, November 18, 1872.)

In 1880, David S. Greer wrote his clear recollection about the early settlement of Paris, Henry County, Tennessee, which were quoted in W.A. Goodspeed's HISTORY OF TENNESSEE, Henry County, 1887, pages 819, 825, 826. He wrote that the Greers settled in Henry County in August 1822.

In 1840 David S. Greer served in the House of Representatives of Miss., representing Marshall County, Mississippi.

The father of David S. Greer (died 1881) was Captain James Greer, a native of Bedford County, Virginia who is reported to have moved to Georgia in 1790 where he married and later moved to middle Tennessee, then in 1822 to Henry County in west Tennessee and thence, in 1836, to Holly Springs, Miss.; advanced in years he and his wife moved shortly before their deaths to DeValls Bluff, Arkansas with his daughter and son-in-law, Martha and J.J. Worsham. (ELMWOOD, by Elmwood Cemetery Association, Memphis, 1874, page 120)

The remains of Captain James Greer and his second wife, Rachel Greer, were removed from Arkansas and reburied in Lot 93, Turley Section, Elmwood Cemetery, Memphis, in January 1859 and buried beside them, their grandson, Richard Gilliam Greer who had died previously while attending the University of Mississippi. On a shaft tombstone, the names and dates of the old couple were inscribed: JAMES GREER born Bedford Co., Va., September 21, 1774; died Prairie Co., Ark., October 8, 1851. RACHEL GREER, born Wake Co., N.C.; died Prairie Co., Ark., August 6, 1851 aged 58 years.

In May 1885, James Micajah Greer (born in 1848), son of James M. Greer and grandson of Captain James Greer (1774-1851) wrote a genealogical memoir, quoting extensively from his uncle, David S. Greer's genealogical