



# Taking Their Place in History

Have you ever wondered or noticed that most tombstones are laid out facing east and west? This is commonly found throughout the world. People were buried with their feet pointing toward the east and their heads towards the west indicating that they were ready to rise up and face the “new day” when “the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised” or when Christ would appear and they would be reborn.

All in all, it is out of respect and remembrance that we should learn more about our dead. There is much to learn about heritage and customs of those that lived before us.

1. The Union Banking Company was the first bank in Coffee County, founded in 1898 by J.M. Ashley. By 1930 the bank had branches in Nicholls and Broxton. Although this financial institution served as a catalyst for business and real estate development, Ashley is perhaps best remembered by the wife he left behind and ghostly tales of the house he built on Gaskin Avenue in 1914. These tales involve more than Ashley and they are all buried together at the Douglas Cemetery. Describe their burial place? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Find Kuhl the educator. The name doesn't seem common to the area, neither did the reason the family came to Douglas when it was little more than a village. Georgia Normal College and Business Institute came into being in Abbeville in 1897 under the leadership of Professors Kuhl and Little. In 1908 the Professor Kuhl and GNCBI came to Douglas following strong recruitment by farseeing leaders. The school offered courses business training, shorthand, bookkeeping, and teaching. The building in which it was originally located still stands today – the Sweat – Dent Building. Eves uphold the ground level northwest corner of this historic building. What year did Professor Kuhl die? \_\_\_\_\_



3. C.A. Ward started the Douglas Breeze in 1888 and served as Judge of the Inferior Court. Ward Street is name after this family. W.P. authored the only book written and published on Coffee County History from the beginning through 1930. It has been reprinted several times and is now on sale at Heritage Station Museum. What year did C.A. ward die? \_\_\_\_\_



4. The first civic organization in Douglas was the City Improvement Club, organized in 1907 and later became known as the Douglas Women's Club. Mrs. L.E. Heath and Mrs. J.C. Brewer were give credit for organizing the club. It remains the oldest existing civic club in Coffee County. The Club owns and hold meeting in the historic building that was once the first Library in Douglas, located on the grounds of Emma Ward Park. What was Mrs. Brewer's first name? \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you are looking for men with vision, look back in history. B.H. Tanner, F.L. Sweat and C.M. Sweat had a vision to building a hospital in the County. They found a young man in Nicholls that seemed to have the knowledge needed to become a physician. They paid for his education and built the first hospital as a home for his practice. It was built in 1909 at a cost of \$18,000 including land, building and all equipment. It now stands as the Coffee County Courthouse Annex – the building with the white column facing Ward Street. Who is buried to the right of F.L Sweat? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Find the grave of David Kirkland. How did he die? \_\_\_\_\_  
 In what political capacity did he serve? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What significance does he hold at the Douglas Cemetery? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Names on tombstones seldom reflect the character of the person or the path of their careers. Mr. Roan left no doubt for our imagination. Find his grave and you will know. What did you find?  
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8. There is no doubt death brings heartache to families. How much heartache can one person take? If we could have only asked Mother May Woodruff Dale. Look around and let us know what you think brought heavy hearts to this family. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Inquisitive minds want to know – do you? I would have loved to talk with May Woodruff Dale. What question would you have for her?



# How Will You Be Remembered?

**Just remember ---  
 The future is not a place to which we  
 are going---it is a place we are  
 creating for those that follow to enjoy.**

