

Kiser Reunion Notes

Cleveland, Va.

September 22, 2007

by Marie Rasnick Fetzer

About 60 people attended the reunion which was held in the recreation building at the ballfield in Cleveland, Va. Honored guest was Joseph Kiser who celebrated his 90th birthday. Lots of hugging going on in the family.



Joseph Kiser

Owen Kiser took me around to visit several cemeteries in the area.

Cemeteries

1. Leaving Cleveland, travel toward Carbo, turn R at Road 744 (Happy Top Rd.). Take the low road. This cemetery is where Noah and Rachel Kiser are buried. They were first cousins, Rachel was the daughter of Ephraim Kiser. She Rachel D-44 is in the Sutherland book p. 331. Judge Sutherland attended Rachel's 100th birthday party and wrote about her on p. 8 of his John Counts book. She was 102 when she died. He



Kiser Cemetery No. 1

Rachel Kiser
June 30, 1834
Oct. 7, 1936

Noah D-9 is also pictured. They lived below the cemetery. There is also a photo of the homesite, but the area does not look like that now.

2. There is a road that goes up along side of the cemetery. Owen said that it led to another Kiser cemetery but that the land is owned by Clinchfield Coal Co., who denies access to it and it requires a court order to go there.



Kiser Cemetery No. 1

Noah S. Kiser
Nov. 1, 1828
Dec, 6, 1884



Kiser Cemetery No. 1

Road alongside of the gate leads to another cemetery

3. Coming out of Happy Top Rd. turn right back onto the main road and proceed to Carbo. Turn L at the white sign towards the church. The four stones in the right front area at the road are in very bad shape and Owen is in the process of replacing them with new ones. The stone at the right front is Joseph Kiser, Jr. To his left is his wife Mary Polly Childress. Behind them are Joseph Kiser, Sr. and his wife Susannah Stacey.

Per Owen, at the foot of the hill is the Clinch River. There is a train turnaround there now. There is an old Civil War drill ground in a field across the river (for Union soldiers??). We walked down to the river but it was grown up and hard to see the field across the way. The brick house across from the church was Joe Kiser's and was the site of many previous reunions, but Joe has since moved.

4. Turn L out of the Carbo church road and continue on to a stop sign. Owen said that across the road is the mouth of Dumps Creek. Go L at the stop sign a very short way to the Miller's Cemetery. We walked in there but no name was there that I recognized.



Miller's Cemetery

5. Go just ahead to a connecting Kiser cemetery. Dumps Creek is behind it. Kisers who lived on farms here were Joseph, Sr., Joseph, Jr. and Nimrod. The land up on the ridge is owned by the coal company. The farms used to be above the cemetery to the right.

This cemetery was very grown up with many unmarked stones and sunken graves.



Cemetery No. 5

Coal Mining going on up on the ridge above



Cemetery No. 5

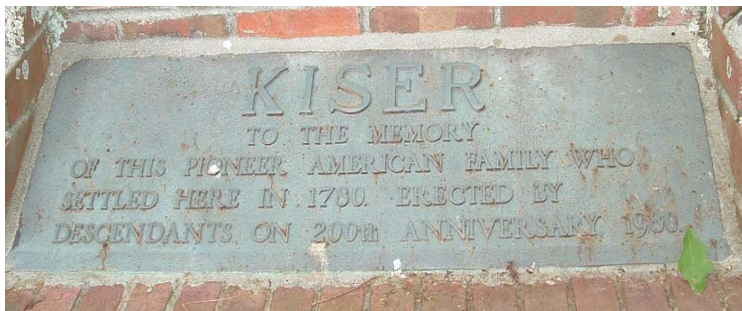


Cemetery No. 5
unknown sunken grave



Cemetery No. 5

6. Turn back around to main road and turn R. Continue to Chaney Creek Rd. (616) and go R. This cemetery is on a hill and is where the Kiser monument is located. There are several more small fenced off lots hidden back in the woods. Monument reads:



Cemetery No. 6
Kiser Monument

KISER
*To the Memory
of This Pioneer American Family Who
Settled Here in 1780. Erected by
Descendants on 200th Anniversary 1980*

7. Continue on Chaney Creek Rd. over the mountain. Just before the intersection of Chaney Creek Rd. and Hazel Mtn. is another cemetery on the L. If you go R at the intersection, it leads to Sandy Ridge. If you go L it goes to Bear Wallow Hollow and Dante. This cemetery is very pretty and well cared for.



Cemetery No. 6



Cemetery No. 6
Owen Kiser standing at the Kiser Monument



Cemetery No. 7



Cemetery No. 7
Elihue Debusk Kiser