

Cemetery

Sit on the ground if appropriate

First of all this is not a real cemetery. The Yarbrough/Gray cemetery is located south of Highway M near the Quail Creek development. When first seen, the stones were mostly torn down. The family thought it would be a nice memorial to have it on these grounds with the house. We marked where we thought the burials had been, but it is doubtful if there were any remains. In 150 years, wooden coffins and organic matter would have disintegrated. There were originally around 25 burials, but people had vandalized the site, stealing stones.

Ask if anyone in the group has ever moved in their lifetime. One, two, three times?

Differences between the 1860s and now, They were born, raised, many instances married and returned to live in the family home, died and buried on the same property. Today we are a mobile society, we move from house to house, town to town, state to state and sometimes between countries.

Usually they only knew their neighbors and school mates. Many married neighbors. Yarbroughs lived across the road from the Grays.

People did not travel far. Trips were taken in a wagon using the ribs with a canvas cover. Travel was slow. It would take two days to go as far as Branson over winding rough roads.

How often do you see your grandparents? Do you live with them? Grandparents used to help raise the children, know and love them. They could tell stories of the family heritage.

Talk about stone box burials. Not common in this part of the country. Mrs. Yarbrough probably did not want her baby underground and asked if anyone remembered how to make a stone box coffin.

Have students wonder through the cemetery taking note as to who lived the longest (Elijah) Who lived the shortest (Mary) Who was born first (Elijah). Tell students not to lean on the stones and that it is considered bad luck to walk across a grave.