

James Anderson Gravestone Repair

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Gravestone Condition

The marble gravestone of James Anderson (1768–1850), our 4th great-grandfather, was damaged sometime after 26 January 2006 probably by mowing equipment. It is at [Hawfields Presbyterian Church Cemetery](#) in Mebane, NC. A large chip was broken off the upper-right corner. Actually, the gravestone was very vulnerable beforehand and should have been better protected.



James Anderson (1768–1850) gravestone
26 January 2006 and 1 July 2007

The inscription is hard to read in places. It is thought to be:

In memory of
JAMES ANDERSON
Who departed this life
January the 20th 1850
Was born September
the 27th 1768 aged
80 years & 4 months

The original stonecutter made a subtraction error. It should read 81 years & 4 months.

James Anderson's wife Martha Jane Murray (1776–1853), our 4th great-grandmother, has an adjacent gravestone. Although Martha's gravestone was broken in the past, it is now safely embedded a concrete pedestal.



Martha Jane Murray (1776–1853) gravestone

The inscription is:

In memory of
MARTHA ANDERSON
Wife of
JAMES ANDERSON
Born April the 16th 1776
Departed this life
October 13, 1853
Aged 77 years.

Location

The Hawfields Presbyterian Church is at 2115 South NC119, Mebane, NC. That is about one mile south of Exit 153 off of I-85. James Anderson's gravesite is directly across from the church's gravel parking lot. It is among other old gravestones about 75 feet from the NC119 road. There is a bare red-clay spot where the gravestone lay.

Actions

Ricky Lee, manager of the cemetery, prevented further damage by removing the gravestone from the cemetery. He passed it to Askew-Petersen Stone Works, Inc., Burlington, NC.

On 22 February 2008, Eugene Petersen sent a proposal outlining how James Anderson's gravestone can be protected and displayed. The total cost was \$886.32.

The best way to raise funds is let as many people participate as possible. That can be done by letting everyone pledge whatever they are willing to donate. Small amounts are welcome. When the total amount pledged equals or exceeds \$886.32, repair can begin. When the actual total cost is invoiced, each pledged amount will be prorated to the ratio of total cost to total pledged. Thus, each pledger will donate at most what he or she pledges. That seems fair and invites maximum participation. Also, the cost should not be a burden on anyone.

James Anderson Gravestone Repair Fund

Pledger
Andrew Byers Anderson
William Lee Anderson III
William Lee Anderson Jr.
Holt Anderson
Jim Florence
Angela & Jim Hinton
Nancy Roney Covington
Henry B. Roney
Wm Banks Anderson, Jr.
Ruth & George Ramseur
Ruth E. Anderson
Vada Anderson

The total pledged was \$925.

Results

In April 2008, the new gravestone was placed in Hawfields Cemetery.



Old James Anderson marble gravestone attached to new granite gravestone

James Anderson's miscalculated age on the original gravestone is now corrected.

Interesting Historical Background

James Anderson (1768–1850) was grandson of immigrant John Anderson (1704–bef1781) and Ann Moore (b:1705) who first settled in North Carolina in 1739.

James Anderson was too young, 12-years-old, to fight in the Revolutionary War although its events swirled around his home. His mother Jane Mebane (1743–aft1810) was from a family of staunch Patriots. At Hawfields Church, young James may have witnessed an [extraordinary incident concerning his uncle Lt. Col. Robert Mebane](#), an important Continental Army officer.

James Anderson married Martha Murray in 1795. He was a farmer who lived on the [east side of Haw River](#), several miles from the cemetery.

Martha Murray grew up near Cross Roads, but became a member of Hawfields Presbyterian Church. She was born 16 April 1776. Interestingly, that is just 4 days after a date that appears on the [North Carolina flag](#). The flag date marks the *Halifax Resolves*, the document in which the NC Provincial Congress

authorized its Continental Congress delegates to vote for independence from Britain. So, Martha has the distinction of being one of the first Americans who was never a British subject. Her brothers Eli and Andrew Murray are represented as the Murray Family in Alex Haley's novel *Roots: the Saga of an American Family*, chapters 105–113. Poignantly, Martha died a few weeks after her son William Anderson (1802–1853), daughter-in-law Martha Faucette (1805–1853), and grandson John Stanford Anderson (1839–1853) all [died of typhoid fever](#) at their home in [Pleasant Grove](#).

Many descendants of James and Martha's son William were buried at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church Cemetery north of Mebane, NC.

Other things to do nearby

Other Relations Buried at Hawfields Cemetery

Individual	Birth	Death	Age	Relation
Margaret Anderson	8 Jan 1800	26 Dec 1886	86	3 rd ggaunt
John Scott	21 Nov 1808	21 Apr 1866	57	3 rd gguncle
Robert Walter Scott	24 July 1861	16 March 1929	67	3 rd cousin+4
Gov. William Kerr Scott	17 April 1896	16 April 1958	61	4 th cousin+3

You can visit [Cross Roads Presbyterian Church Cemetery](#). There you will find many Anderson, Aldridge, Roney, and Wyatte descendants of James Anderson and Martha Jane Murray.