

"I don't want to move. I am old. I don't care to make new friends or see new places. I want to sit here and look out on these hills where I was born. My folks are buried down the road a piece and our babies are over there on the hill under the cedars."

Nancy Longmire, on Norris Dam to Marshall Wilson, TVA employee

FAMILIES OF NORRIS RESERVOIR AREA



A grave disinterment in Baker's Forge Cemetery, being witnessed by Campbell County Baptist Association.



A grave reinterment in a New Memorial cemetery.

GRAVE REMOVAL OPERATIONS

The Tennessee Valley Authority, if requested to do so, sends a car to bring relatives to witness the removal operations if they live within a reasonable distance of the cemetery. Upon completion of these operations, such persons are taken back to the point from which they were brought. It is seldom that some relatives or local citizens are not present to view the removals.

As to how we disinter and reinter the remains, laborers remove the earth down to the casket or box. At this point a licensed undertaker, employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority, takes over the operation and removes the remains which are placed in a new, sturdily built, wooden box. This box has a large sheet of undertaker's white wrapping (a kind of paper) within it upon which the remains are deposited, and the wrapping is folded over the remains after which the top is nailed on the box. The box is placed on a truck and a clean tarpaulin placed over it, and then transported to the place of reinterment. Lowering straps are placed underneath the box and it is carried to the new opening and lowered into its new resting place. If there are any markers or monuments on the grave, they are moved and reset at the new grave. If the grave has none, the Tennessee Valley Authority furnishes a small metal marker and places it on the grave.

The Tennessee Valley Authority realizes the delicacy of this type of work, and is especially alert to see that it is performed in a most respectful manner.

Should it be decided to have the graves of relatives removed, it will be necessary to choose the cemetery in which it is desired to have the graves reintered. In most cases it is not necessary to pay out any money for a lot, if the lot chosen is in some local cemetery that is out of the inundated or isolated area. Permission is generally obtained from the trustees of the new cemetery to make these reinterments without cost. The Tennessee Valley Authority will not take the initiative in such a service but would render advice and aid to anyone contacting us about this matter.

Source: Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority, Records Group Number 142, National Archives, Atlanta, National Archives Identifier: 656399

<http://www.archives.gov/atlanta/exhibits/item340.html>

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

TVA GRAVE REMOVAL PERMIT

155 W Vermont Ave

Residence Lonsdale

State of Tenn

Date Oct 16 1935

I hereby represent to the Tennessee Valley Authority that I
Ike Stooksbury the surviving _____ RELATION Son
 _____ of Alfred Stooksbury Age 65 Years who
 died of T. B. in or about the year of
1889 and was buried in a Wood container, GRAVE No. 79
 CEMETERY No. 180 known as Stooksbury CEMETERY,
 and within the area which will be flooded by the building of the Norris
 Dam, and as such nearest kin or relative have the right to authorize the disinterment and removal of the remains of the said deceased from the said area.

And I hereby authorize the Tennessee Valley Authority to go ahead at its own expense and disinter and remove the remains of the said deceased person and all the markers of the grave from the said area, and reinter the said remains and properly replace the said markers in some other suitable cemetery, preferably New Houston R. 39

WITNESS:
Claude F. Guyton
Bh Johnson

GRAVE IDENTIFIED BY:

Name Ike Stooksbury
 Residence _____
 Name _____
 Residence _____
 Name _____
 Residence _____
 Name _____
 Residence _____
 Name _____
 Residence _____

Do not Notify