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RE: HYTEN CEMETERY, CENTER TOWNSHIP, HENDRICKS COUNTY, IN.

On your internet site you include information on the above cemetery which is incorrect.

The first two names listed, Darnalls, while Hyten relation, do not have stones identifying grave sites in that cemetery. If you can find out who did that survey, I would like to be able to talk to them to find out how they determined that information. Possibly, years ago, those stones did exist.

Joshua Hyten is in fact Johnson Allen Hyten and is identified as such on his tombstone.

I am enclosing the portion of my book on the Hyten family which describes my work at the cemetery. The site is now clean and open for viewing.

HYTEN FAMILY CEMETERY NEAR DANVILLE, INDIANA

Long ago **Arlene Hyten-Rainey** had told me about finding the grave of William Caywood Hyten on a farm in Indiana. I knew where it was but never visited it until my son **Mark Bonham Hyten** moved to Indianapolis. My first visit in 1997 came with the help of Jon Flathers who lives just down the road on what's left of his family's farm dating from the same 1800s time-frame as the **Hyten** farm. I returned to study the site in November of 1999.

In his 1894 remembrance **William Henry Hyten** says that in October 1833 his father, William Caywood Hyten, moved his family from Montgomery County, KY, to Hendricks County, IN. Upon arriving in Indiana, they wintered with his in-laws, the Darnells. In the spring William Caywood bought 80 acres for \$1.25 per acre. On it he built a log home 18 x 26, 1 1/2 stories high " ... well put up for the times." Later he bought the neighboring 80 acre tract from a man named McPeters for \$2.50 per acre. This property is located in what is now the southeast corner of the inter-section of Washington St. and 300 N road, three miles north of the court-house square in Danville, IN. While the property is clearly identifiable on the 1878 Middle Township plat map, it is not listed in the **HYTEN** name. The southern portion of the original 80 acres is listed as belonging the *J. F. Arnold*, who is the second husband of **Johnson Allen Hyten's** wife, **Jullann Darnell Hyten**. Across the 300 N road is the Flathers farm and property owned by J. C. Moberly. William Caywood's daughters **Sarah** and **Mary** married Moberleys. Also in the area are farms owned by J. Gorrell, F. Hardwick, J. Caywood, W. McDaniel, S. McClung, Parker, W. Gentry, Depew, and Todd, all names connected to the **HYTEN** family tree. Also of interest is the name Cox, that of the wife of the yet unconnected William Hyten.

The southern-most forty acres of the original **Hyten** farm is now owned by Steve Myers. It's address is 2867 Washington St., Danville, IL. From the deed, the cemetery part of it is described as "Section 27, T16N, R1W. 50 rods south of road 300, and 50 rods east of road ...(Washington St.)" In our November 21, 1999, discussion Steve told me that he bought the property in three sections, the southern 20 acres, followed by 11 acres next to the road, and finally 9 acres east of that. The original or southern

Hyten Family

section of 20 acres supposedly contains the cemetery but in fact it lies in the southeast corner of the final 9 acres. The Myers home sits near the middle of the site, well off the road in amongst the trees that cover the eastern portion of the property.

When I first visited the site in 1997, Myers had a twenty foot wide path mowed back from the house to the edge of the cemetery which sat in the woods. The lawn-like grass is lined by a natural wooded setting, home to deer, owls, and other wildlife typical of the region.

Apparently hunters had used the cemetery as a camping grounds as a fire pit was evident and rubbish abounded. Myers cleaned the area up, leaning fallen tombstones against trees and occasionally hacking down the weeds. I was surprised that he had gone to that much trouble given that he really had no idea who the **HYTENs** were. In fact in 1999 he still wasn't aware that there were **HYTENs** in nearby Brownsburg and Indianapolis.

I went to the cemetery with the in-tention of conducting a sort of archeo-logical dig, or more accurately shallow surface probe, hoping to find other stones near the surface. I found the site thickly covered with leaves but fairly clear of the briars and brush I remem-bered from two years previous. After raking the site, looking closely, I saw that the four standing stones were in a north-south line about 28 feet long. Al-lowing about four feet per grave as indi-cated by the two stones which stood adjacent to each other, there should have been 8 graves.

At the south end of the line is a six foot high monument with one side dedi-cated to William Caywood Hyten and the other to his wife **Eliza Darnell Hyten**. Sitting on a 24" cube is a 16" square x 8" high chunk of hard marble with "Mother" on the north, "**Hyten**" on the west, and "Father" on the south. On the north side of the 37" obelisk that tops the monument is written "**Eliza** / (/=change lines) wife of / **W.C. Hyten** / died / Sept. 30, 1871 / after / 42 ys. 10 m.". Below are six lines of writing which are totally obscured by weathering. It appears that there is some sort of carving above the name **Hyten** but it, too, is illegible. On the south, with some difficulty, you can read "**Wm. C. Hyten** / died / June 22, 1882 / after / 92 ys. 5 m. ??". Again there appears to be six lines below.

Immediately next to the monument, to the north, is an 18" diameter tree. Buried on the other side of it, in what I would guess to be the next grave posi-tion, I found the top half of a soft marble headstone, 9" w x 11" h. Below a design, that I guess is a sheep, is written "**David P.H.** / son of / J.A. & J.J." On the other side of the tree leaned a similar piece of stone 15" tall with "Died / June 15, 1851 / Aged 6 ys. 9m. / 23 d". It wasn't till I talked to Mrs. Myers that I realized these were part of the same stone. It was then that I could see "**Hyten**" across the break line. Against the other side of tree was leaning a small marble with the initials "D.P.H.H." carved on it.

The problem is that I have no record of a **David P.H. Hyten**. His birth date would seem to have been about August 24, 1844, but this is well before **Johnson Allen Hyten** and **Jullann's** marriage. Still, it must be a son which they didn't register.

After a blank space in the grave line there is a half of leaning limestone headstone, 12"w x 13" high, which was badly eroded. Poking around, I found the top half just below the surface. Pro-ected from the elements, it was in bet-ter condition. The rounded top had a nice design possibly of flowers and a sheep. The line which might have names was eroded but might have be-gun with MIL; at least the L is clear. It's quite a stretch but this could be William Caywood Hyten's long lost sister **Milly**.

Next to that grave there are then two "open" spots, though I found a twelve inch diameter boulder just below the surface in the position nearest the stone. The soil all around was quite rocky, but I had the feeling that the top of each grave was "protected" by rock fill.

Against the big tree is also a large marble stone with a rounded top on which is carved "**Armilda** / dau't of / **W. & E. Hyten** / died / July 16, 1857 / aged / 35 yr. 3 m. 22 d." Below that five lines of writing of which I could make out only the following: "all flesh is a ?? all ? / glory of man as His ? of grass(sic) / the fl. ? ? ? ? / but th.n and of the ? ? / ? ? ? ?".

Off the line, against a smaller tree, is the 15"w x 31" high limestone head-stone of "**Johnson Allen Hyten**, died, Oct. 23, 1856, aged, 30 ys. 7 m. 28d." These later two stones could have occu-pied any of the three open spots.

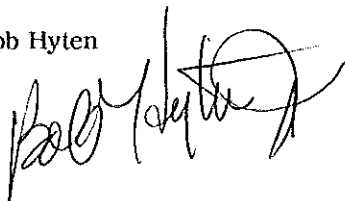
At the north end of this line is a limestone headstone without legible writing on it though it appears to have its top half missing. Finally is a monu-ment for Thomas Flathers, Jon's grand-father. Thomas was married to Mary (Polly) Darnall, the sister of William Caywood's wife **Elizabeth (Eliza) Dar-nall**.

As I was leaving I asked the Myers to burn off the area. When I return, I'll rake the area with hope of finding more stone fragments. Maybe I'll also rig up a probing rod in order to get deeper than the six inches my spade penetrated. Also I'll spray herbicides to keep the weeds down. I did cut back limbs enough so that Steve might be able to mow some in the area.

Steve Myers indicated that **HYTENs** were welcome to visit the site even if he is not at home. It would probably be ap-propriate to phone ahead to let them know you are coming. I have his un-listed number.

Yours,

Bob Hyten





Plainfield-Guilford Township
Public Library

Local and Indiana Information Department

Hyten Cemetery
East of 50 W; South at 200 N
Center Township, Hendricks County, IN

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Name	Date	Cemetery
Darnall,	1854 d.	Hyten
Darnall, David T. <i>I NEVER FOUND THESE STONES.</i>	1854 d.	Hyten
Flathers, Thomas ✓	1870 d. -?	Hyten
Hyten, Eliza ✓	<i>1871</i> - 1876 d.	Hyten
Hyten, Joshua - <i>JOHNSON ALLEN</i>	1856 d. ✓	Hyten
Hyten, William C. ✓	1882 d. ✓	Hyten

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