

Taylor Sites Tour Map

Getting there:

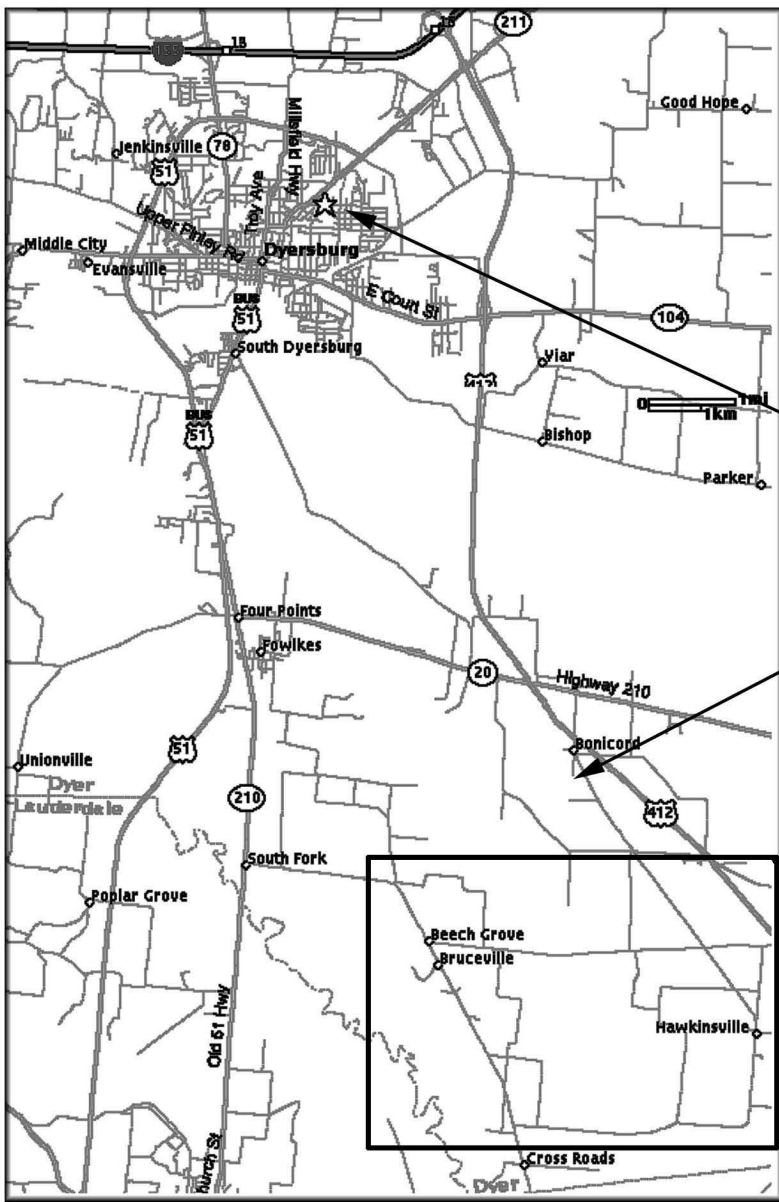
Go left onto Shelby Drive to Hwy 211

Right on 211 to US 412

S. on 412 toward Jackson - Approx 7 miles

Right on Bonicord Road

Locations follow along this road



Reunion Site

1. My Birthplace

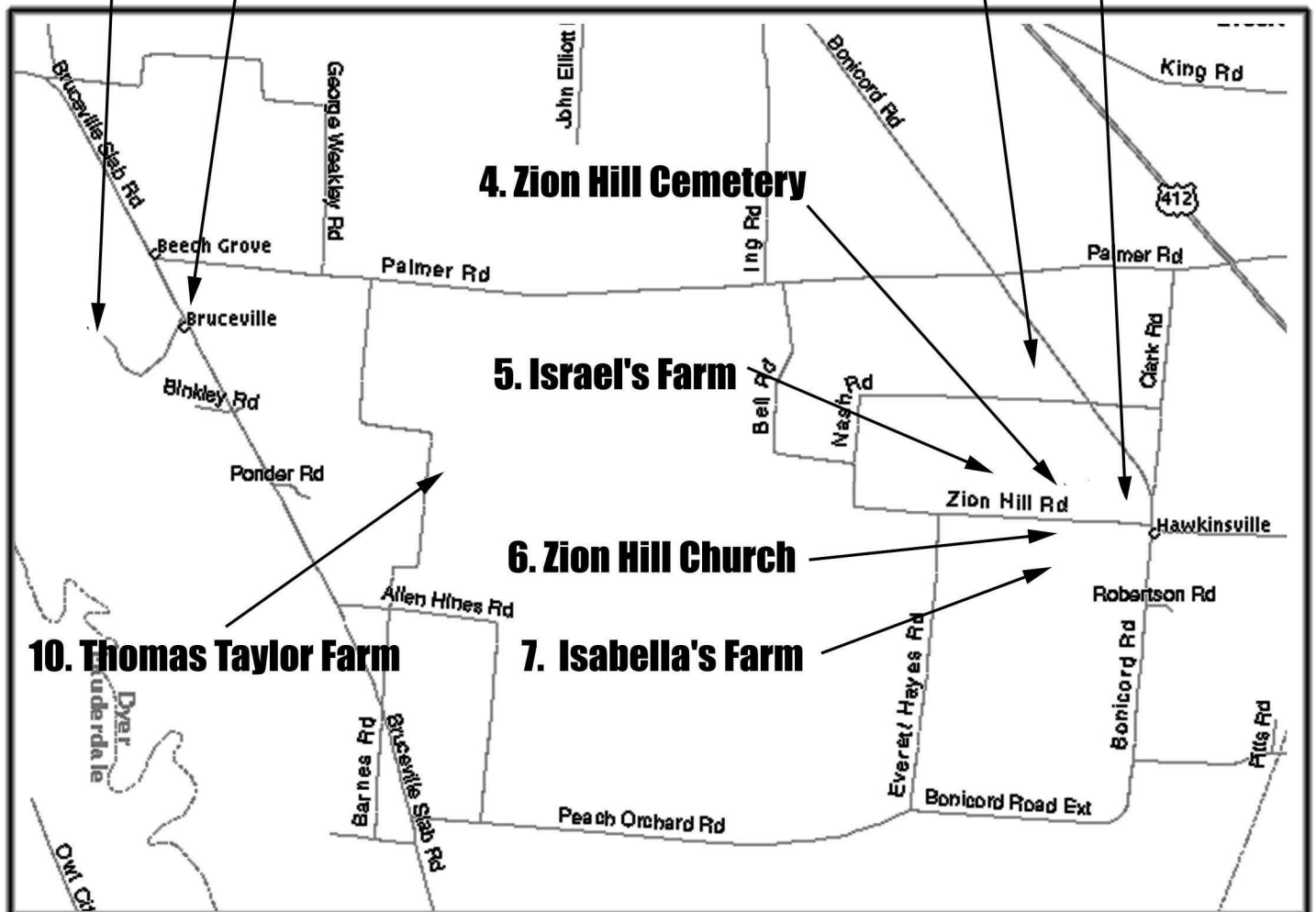
See Detailed Map Below

2. Mt. Pisgah Cemetery

8. Palestine Cemetery

9. Palestine Church

3. Noah's Farm



Points on Tour of Dyer Co. Taylor Sites

Of the eight children of William W. Taylor of Newberry, SC, three (Isabella, Noah, and Israel) resided in Dyer County. While William's son Robert lived in Florida, two of Robert's sons lived in Dyer County. One of them, Thomas Carter Taylor, resided here permanently.

Isabella's father-in-law Peter Watson Hawkins came here in the 1840s and Isabella and her husband Simeon followed. Since Simeon and Isabella were their guardians, Noah and Israel came along. They ended up marrying two of Simeon's sisters, making a very tight-knit family.

After raising a family here and the death of his first wife, Noah moved to Florida and raised another family. Robert's son James Stanhope Taylor came here from Florida and married a niece of Isabella. He moved back to Florida in a few years. Another son Thomas Carter Taylor (my grandfather) came in the 1880s and stayed permanently.

The points on the tour represent those families.

1. My Birthplace

This is an exercise in pure vanity. Since I'm putting together the tour, I get a little latitude. After you pass through Bonicord and before you get to Millers Chapel Church, on the right across the field is a collapsing 2 story frame farmhouse. I was born in the second bedroom of that house. My Dad was sharecropping on my grandmother Miller's farm at the time.

2. Mt Pisgah Cemetery

This small Cemetery is the burial site for Austin Taylor, Israel's son and his wife Nannie.

3, 5, and 7. Farms of Noah, Israel, and Isabella

Simeon and Isabella settled at this location on top of the hill. As a result, this area later became known as Hawkinsville. Around 1860 Noah and Israel bought land across the road from Isabella and established their own farms. Based on the joint actions done by Noah, Israel and Simeon, they were apparently close. After Simeon joined the Confederate Army, Noah and Israel joined the same unit.

4. Zion Hill Cemetery

This Cemetery contains the remains of George Hawkins - Isabella's son, Harriett Hawkins Smith - Isabella's daughter, and Fletcher Taylor - Israel's son. I haven't been able to find Isabella's burial place, Israel was buried in an unmarked Confederate grave, and Noah's grave and most of his family's graves are in Florida.

6. Zion Hill Church

This Missionary Baptist Church was founded by James and Harriet Hawkins Smith (Isabella's daughter that inherited the farm). The Hawkins were traditionally Lutheran. Simon's father was a prominent Lutheran Minister. When he brought his family to Dyer Co., one of his daughters married Luke Roberson, who converted the whole family, including the father, to Missionary Baptist. This distressed the older son who had gone back to South Carolina and was a prominent Lutheran Minister there.

8. Palestine Cemetery

This is the burial place for Thomas Carter Taylor, son of Robert. When he was 30, he left Florida to visit his Tennessee relatives. He stayed and established his life here.

9. Palestine Church

This Methodist Church was the spiritual center for the Thomas Carter Taylor's clan. The Taylors were traditionally split between Methodist and Lutheran due to their Irish and German ancestry. The Baptist portion came from the Hawkins conversion mentioned above.

10. Thomas Carter Taylor's farm

This is the farm where Thomas established his family. He obtained the farm in gifts and purchases from his father-in-law Joseph A. M. Barnes who had come here from Mississippi. It is believed he lived with Fletcher Taylor after he came to Tennessee, but before he married.