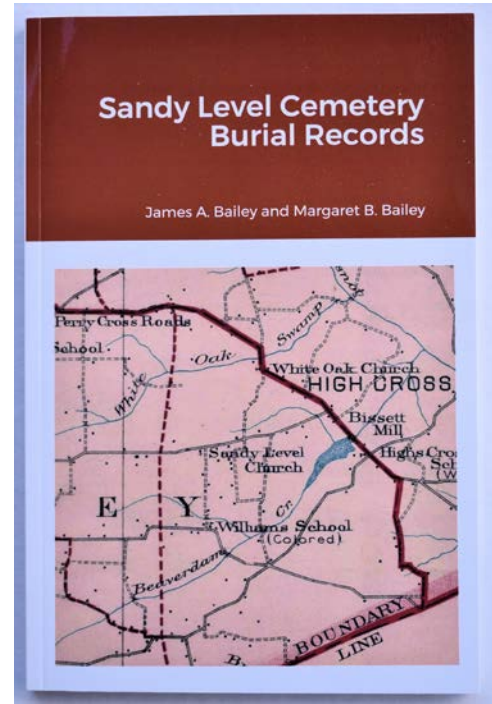
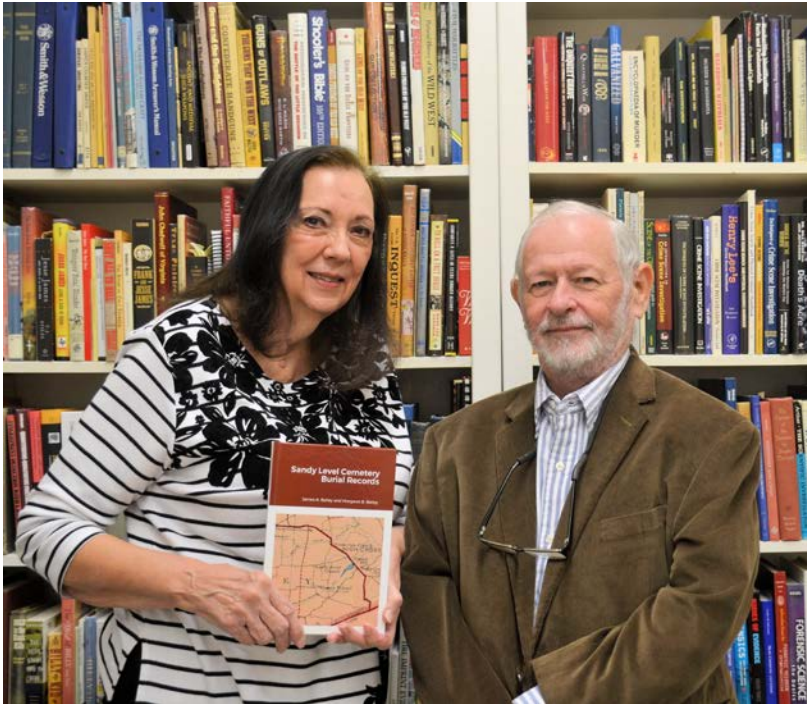


Bailey Authors Recover History in New Book

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Margaret and James Bailey display a copy of their local history book, "Sandy Level Cemetery Burial Records." A book signing is scheduled from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday at Privette Memorial Library in Bailey. Contributed photo

"Sandy Level Cemetery Burial Records" is available as a 150-page paperback for \$20 or a hardcover edition for \$35. Books can be ordered for mail delivery with a \$5 shipping fee.

BAILEY — Local authors and historians Margaret and James Bailey will sign copies of their new book, "Sandy Level Cemetery Burial Records," at Privette Memorial Library on Tuesday.

The book was written "for those interested in local Nash County history, landmarks and family genealogy," the Baileys explained in a news release.

The authors identify 154 known burials in the originally African Methodist Episcopal church at the intersection of Bailey Road and Stoney Hill Church Road. They said the church was identified in a 1919 township map.

"Although it is not known when the church was established, religious services were being delivered to the community when land was conveyed to church trustees Henry B. Finch, Willis Cone and Dennis Dew in January 1875," the Baileys wrote. "At that time, the deed cited that the AME church was located on the property."

The Baileys said the church was active in the 1930s and served as a Nash County Health Department infectious disease immunization site.

“Since that time,” the Baileys wrote, “the church building has disappeared from the landscape. There are no remnants of the church today, but the 5-acre cemetery is filled with weathered and broken stone grave markers. Paper slips in the metal markers have disintegrated and are not legible.”

The earliest gravesite described in the book is that of Parker Morgan, who was born in April 1834 and died on Jan. 4, 1904.

Paul Ross was the last decedent buried in the cemetery upon his Jan. 3, 1995, death at age 52.

Among the 154 people buried in the cemetery, the authors said 37 were born in the 1800s.

Margaret and James Bailey collected information from grave markers for their research and located death certificates and obituaries for 58 surnames, which are listed alphabetically in the book.

“Sandy Level Cemetery Burial Records” is available as a 150-page paperback for \$20 and a hardback edition for \$35. Copies will be available for sale at the book signing, planned from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Privette Memorial Library, 6288 Main St.

Books can be ordered for mail delivery with a \$5 shipping fee. For questions or to place orders, call Margaret and James Bailey at 252-235-0301.