

Some Early Pioneers Buried at the Hawesville, Ky. Cemetery

During October, November & December 1915 a series of articles appeared in the Hancock Clarion (a newspaper published at Hawesville, Hancock County, Ky.) giving information about many of those who were buried in the Hawesville, Ky. Cemetery. There appears to have been six installments in the series, which appeared in the issues of Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Dec. 4, Dec. 18 & Dec. 25. On microfilm of available issues of the Clarion the last five issues appear but the Oct. 30 issue is missing. The following is a transcribed copy of the last five installments made by Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky.

Hancock Clarion, 6 November 1915:

"FACTS - Briefly Told Of The Little Colony That Sleepth On The Hill Top - This Article Is Continued From Last Week And Shows Many Nationalities Present":

Continuing the story of the Hawesville cemetery so well begun in last issue through the inspiration given the Clarion man by James Moors and John Moore the following notes of some of the more ancient graves will be of interest to all.

The most ancient grave of a physician is that of Dr. H. Asbury, who died in 1862 or the second year of the Civil War. Of course the present generation never hears his name mentioned but Mr. Moore said he knew him well, his wife, who died in 1858 is buried beside him and a modest tombstone marks their grave. The wife's name before marriage was Rosina Davison. They lived in and owned what has since been built into the present commodious residence of Win. Kyler Jr. on Main street. When they occupied it the building was but a small one story building. The couple had two daughters one of whom died and the other married a man named Cline and removed to Paducah where they are now, probably living.

Not far from these graves is that of Wm. Moors, brother of one of the Clarion's guides. He was born in Prince Edwards Island, Nova Scotia, while the brother, James Moors, was born in Indiana, back of Jeffersonville. Their grandfather, came from the Isle of Man when he migrated to America. The family came to Hawesville many years ago and Wm. and James Moors were both iron workers and wagon builders of a high class and both afterwards removed to Owensboro, where the sons of Wm. Moors became and are still public spirited men.

A substantial slab marks the grave of Edmond Newman and his wife and on it is inscribed: "He was born in Prince of Wales county, Virginia. He was a Revolutionary soldier under George Washington. He joined the Masons in Virginia and was a member of a lodge at Hardinsburg, Breckenridge county when he died August 11, 1850, aged 91." His wife died in May 1854 aged 92. He was the worthy progenitor of many worthy citizens now living and others

who are dead. Two of his descendants were killed in the Civil War where they were volunteer Confederates.

Richard Smart has the only two-stone marking for his last resting place. Both stones are of different grade but bear testimony to the same facts. They tell that he was born in 1797 two years before Washington died and while John Adams was yet in his first year of presidency. He died in 1847. His ancient house was torn down a few years ago where it stood on the N.E. corner of First alley and Clay street to give place to the present fine residence of Andrew Gillians.

John Snowden was a most useful man in his day in Hawesville. He was an expert stonemason and built the Catholic church, the late stone bridge across Lead creek and other substantial structures. He was born in 1825 and died in 1873 according to inscription on his tanbstone. He lived on the hillside in the lower part of town where Joe Douthitt now lives. One son was John Snowden Jr. and William another son, who recently died.

For many years no Catholics were buried in this cemetery as the original colony of that faith in the county established a cemetery in the Catholic neighborhood, a few miles this side of Lewisport and there the Catholics were taken from Hawesville until the Kelly families bought lots here and several members of the family have been buried in them the first being James Kelly and soon after, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kelly and a daughter, Mary. Patrick Kelly came to the county in 1860 and reared a large family. He and his wife were born in Ireland, but came to this country with their parents when small.

A little romance attached to the graves of John W. Hauhee, who was born in 1831 and died in 1873, and that of his son, Josiah J. Hauhee, who was born in 1854 and died in 1873. The son had been away from home and took the small pox at Evansville. There was much alarm about the small pox here at the time and the town was rigidly quarantined but, in spite of all this, the senior Hauhee went to Evansville and brought his son here and landing him down near the mouth of Lead creek succeeded in getting him to his home in the lower part of town and nursed him until he died. The father contracted the dreaded disease from the son and he too died of it. The widow of the father still lives in the fatal house with her brother, Tom Penson.

The story already long enough for one issue, will probably be continued next week.

Hancock Clarion, 13 November 1915:

"STARS FELL - When Those Lived Here Who Now Sleep In The Hill Cemetery - More Grave Reflections Inspired By Sunday Visit To The City Of The Dead":

A third installment of the Hawesville cemetery story should open with an acknowledgement of the wide interest excited by the perusal of the preceding articles and general comment of the accuracy of the two gentlemen, Messrs. John Moore and Jas. Moors, who

accompanied and informed the Clarion scribe on his daylight journey through the city of the dead.

Several fuller comments could now be made upon some of those who have passed away and one that should be no longer delayed is that many recall the hospitable home of Dr. H. Asbury as a place where the young people often gathered and enjoyed themselves in the evenings Mr. and Mrs. Asbury were genial people and loved to have the young people at their home in innocent enjoyment.

Martha M. Soyez was born in 1834 and died in 1868. She was the wife of the late Dr. C. L. Soyez, who kept a confectionery in a small frame that stood where the present Walz brick stands and which is the property of Mrs. Sallie Walz,, a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Soyez. Mrs. Soyez was buried first on a farm in the country and then was removed to the Hawesville cemetery. The tombstone at her grave was erected by Mr. John Moore. The doctor married a second time. The family of two boys and four girls are a widely scattered one. Some are dead and one son, Louis, has been in many parts of the world as a navy and is still with uncle Sam.

Joel H. Jackson sleeps in a well kept grave. He was originally the proprietor of a steam grist mill that stood until about forty-five years ago on the north west bank where Clay street extended would cross the railroad. In those days the county road ran along the river bank towards Cloverport and all the upper bottoms came by shorter route to Hawesville and this mill had large patronage. A terrific explosion took place in the mill before the civil war and the boiler was blown into the river near by. Mr. Jackson became sheriff at one time. He was also an expert auctioneer and was popular as ring master at county fairs. The first place the writer recalls seeing him perform as such, being at the once popular Cloverport fair.

The father and mother of the late Robt. Allen are buried here. They were very early comers to Hawesville and they were here when the stars fell. This remarkable statement called for quick and alarmed questioning on the part of the Clarion man and he soon learned that the stars did fall over Hawesville in the long ago but none of them reached the limits of the town. So real was this phenomenon that all noticed it and felt greatly alarmed. The __ __ which was also a kind of __ __ for the more __ __ people of the town and a meeting was being held at the time of the solar descent. The meeting was soon broken up and all the congregation ran out into the street. Mrs. Allen who was very old often told of the occurrance and of the conduct of an old colored woman whom the Allens had for __ and __ __ arms stretched up and hands spread out and looking toward heaven and crying pitously but confidently "I am ready Lord, I am ready to go". She was known to be a devout and prayerful old woman and the white folk who __ deserted their meeting at the first ominous sign of the meeting of the earth and the heavens crowded about her and begged her to pray for them. None of the __ __. Mr. Moors said old Mrs. Allen often told this story. His brother, Wm. Moors afterwards married her daughter and Mrs. Orb Mason is her granddaughter.

Hancock Clarion, 4 December 1915:

"ANOTHER - Installment of Facts Gleaned From The City Of Dead - Gathered By Trio As They Continued Wandering Among The Silent Tombs":

Continuing his wanderings through the cemetery on the hill the Clarion man still guided by Messrs. Moore and Moors, found the following of interesting facts from conversation and inscriptions on tombstones.

Michael Fritz died in 1875 aged 57. He was an enterprising German merchant, whose popular place was on Main Cross street about where the Odd Fellows hall now is. He was the father of four enterprising sons and two most excellent daughters. The hone of this family was located on the present site of Dr. P. C. Mitchell's home.

Alexander Hawley died in 1862 and was then 44 years of age. He was one of the large family that has been here since the very beginning of Hawesville and even before and owned considerable amount of the land on which the town was built. Capt. James Polk Hawley is the one surviving man here now of the large family.

David Augustus, is a name that carries one back into the early colonial days as he is marked as having been born in 1789 and died in 1837. He was a ten year old boy when Washington died and was only 47 years of age when Jackson was president. His wife, Sallie Augustus, sleeps near him and she was born nine years after her husband and lived until she was 71. Another grave near by is that of Sarah Augustus. Sarah succeeded Sallie as helpmate of David, who died in 1874. The Augustus' are still well remembered by the older people of the town and one of __ of them in the writer's mind is that they lived in the lower part of town in "The house on stilts."

A name now unfamiliar in town though not so out in the county, is that of Pulliam and one tombstone shows that John David Pulliam was once a citizen of the town and died here with the memory left behind that "He was a nephew of R. H. Cox, father of the present Geo. H. Cox, of Owensboro, and that he had been the husband of three wives, all of whom are buried on the hill. His first wife was a sister of the late Nester C. Davidson.

Mary, wife of A. C. Lindsay, died in 1864 aged 48. This was another of the very estimable families of the earlier day here that has left none of the male to preserve the name.

Priscilla, wife of Alexander Hambleton, died in 1873 aged 31. Hambleton afterwards married a Mrs. Radford, of Cannelton, and removed there where he died.

D. S. Thomas was born in 1812 and died July 23, 1873. He was the father of the late W. S. Thomas, one of the founders of the Hancock Deposit Bank. His last illness was some form of acute indigestion and resembled cholera sufficiently to cause considerable alarm, as the writer well remembers. His wife, Margaret Thomas, lies near him and she died as recently as 1895 and

is well remembered yet. Sam P. Thomas, a son, died in 1899. He had been sheriff of the county and was a most genial friend and companion. He was 45 years of age when he died and was never married.

Another who carries one back into the century of Washington, was Elisha Lewis. He was born the year that Washington died, 1799, and died in 1860, just as this country was on the verge of its terrible civil war. He was a pioneer settler of the Midway neighborhood and owned the present John Kelly farm and his descendants, Stephen and Elisha Lewis, and Mrs. Ogle sold the farm to the present owner. On it is a noted water mill site and there Mr. Lewis ground corn and other grain in his mill for many years, and later his sons ran a steam mill on Sandy creek in the Skillman neighborhood and also on Lead creek. Another son, Wm., died in 1852, aged 29.

W. W. Badger died in 1888, aged 71. He was a German and was distinguished for his services in the Confederate army. He returned from it with bleeding feet after the surrender of Lee at Appomatox. He was very popular and served as county clerk. The old brick home in which he lived on the hill near the Sam Mason home has been razed and part of the bricks from it were used in the building of the present Hawesville Bank. He left one son, who is a contractor at Birmingham, and several daughters.

Hancock Clarion, 18 December 1915:

"CEMETERY - Reminiscences Extend Far Back Into Ye Days Of Yore - Recalls Tragedy and Disaster Long Dormant In Minds Of The Living":

The local cemetery having been cleaned up and greatly beautified the relatives of those who sleep there will find more pleasure in visiting it than formerly.

On the northeast side of the lot are to be found the graves of many of the sturdy sons of England who did much in the early development of the mines here. Some of these were Edward Berkley, who was born in 1823 and died in 1861. He was crushed to death in a mine and was the father of Mrs. Dan Gillians, the late Ben Berkley who died in 1887 and George Berkley, the present marshall of Island Station, Ky., all of whom are excellent citizens. Nancy Goff was born in 1803 and died in 1859. She was the wife of John Goff whose record could not be found here. Frances, wife of Dan Gillians was born in 1808 and died in 1866 and her husband was born in 1801 and died in 1885 [should be 1854]. There was also a John Gillians who was in Co. E. Third Kentucky Calvary and near him sleeps John Gillians, who was his brother.

In the north-east corner of the cemetery also, not far from the above named graves, are buried in unmarked graves the forty-one victims of the Steamer Reindeer disaster. Mr. Moore said he had made the boxes for their burial in trenches. Each did not have a separate box. "Family grave stone for 1ot" runs the phasing on a slab over the Jabez Millership grave. His wife died in October 1910 aged 84 says another marker. A strange aggregation of mortals was this

family, the last of whom here was this week declared incapable of attending to his business and \$3,000 worth of property. They were for many years the keepers of one of Hawesville's saloons.

A very lonely grave is that not far from where the Reindeer victims lie and which is marked "Larkin Monin, died August 8, 1858, aged 56."

A grave that recalls one of the town's most unfortunate tragedies is that of John Cheatham, who was born 1820 and died in 1873. Near him lies his wife, "Betty.", who died in 1865 aged 44, as the result of a gun shot wound inflicted by her husband while at a barbecue on Lead Creek. He was a coal miner and was in a drunken quarrel with another when he shot his wife.

Moses Hubbard, is the name on a tomb that is not heard here any more. He died in 1854 aged 39. His wife survived him about 30 years and was a kindly old lady, the grandmother of the Misses Lentz.

Mary Antionette Taylor born in 1808 and died in 1891 and her husband, Hiram Taylor, born in 1803 and died in 1871, lie side by side. Mrs. Taylor was a noted obstetrician in this country for many years.

On the tomb of the Monroe's is an open Bible. The wife's name was Euphemia and her husband's was Alexander. He was born in 1784 and died in 1855. There was also a Neal Monroe whose wife was Eliza. He was a bank boss of the first Hawesville and the family lived in the Adair home that burned a few years ago a half mile below town. A child of the last named couple died in 1858 aged 3 years. The family was of Scottish origin, Alexander having been born in that land of tartans, plads and the fiery cross the year after Cornwallis surrendered to Washington and the French at Yorktown.

Hancock Clarion, 25 December 1915:

"MORE OF DEAD - Hawesville's Deceased Population Being Recalled With Honor - Former County Judge Forgotten And Only One of Hawes Family Living Here Now":

A very worthy couple born in Germany and now reposing in the cemetery here are Mr. and Mrs. L. Bergenroth. Mr. Rergenroth was born in Berleberg. He died in 1895. They brought up here a large and worthy family of boys and led useful and industrious lives.

Henrietta A. Lehman is recorded on her tombstone as having been born in 1827 and died at the age of 58. An infant by the same name is buried by her. This is one of the names not found here now.

Nathan Freeman is the name of a pioneer settler who was well known to a large part of the county. He was born in 1811, that most remarkable year in Kentucky history. He died in

1889. He was the father of sixteen children one of whom was the late Amos Freeman, Circuit Clerk, and another is Mr. Jas. Freeman, now of Hawesville.

John F. Napier died in 1854, aged 65. The name is no longer found here but he left relatives here. He was the grandfather of John F. Williams. His wife is buried in Daviess county. He was the father of Mrs. Jas. Williams.

One of the most popular physicians who ever lived in the county was Dr. Green Sterett. He and his wife are sleepers in the cemetery here. He was born in 1811 and Mrs. Sterett in 1822. He died in 1894 and she six years later. He was a representative in the legislature twice. Two daughters live in Daviess county and one in Bowling Green and the only surviving son removed to. Evansville, where he lived for many years but he now lives with Mrs. Wm. Murphy, a sister in Daviess county.

Wm. Mason, is a name unknown to the younger generation and forgotten by many of the older persons. His resting place is marked by a tall monument. He was born in 1791 or a year before Kentucky became a State. He died December 18, 1861. He was for several years county judge of Hancock. His home for many years was in a two story brick that was occupied by Dr. R. W. Taylor in 1879 when it, the old Plaindealer office and other structures that stood between First Alley and the Hancock Deposit bank, were burned. His wife was Elizabeth Mason, who was born a year later than he and she rests beside him. Mrs. J. S. Henry now of Owensboro, was a grandchild of this venerable couple, and she received from Judge Mason as a gift the Dr. Lightfoot property on Water street and this property was soon afterwards exchanged by Mrs. Henry for property on the hill.

Chas. B. Duncan and his wife, Sally Ann Duncan, are another pair of many-year residents of Hawesville. Mr. Duncan was born in 1818 and died in 1894. He was for many years a leading dry goods merchant while his brother, John Duncan for nearly as many years a grocer. The former was on the first floor and the latter in the basement of the former brick that stood where the present Rosenblatt store is. Even yet many of the old timers will speak of that as "Duncan's corner."

Edwin T. Drury was born in 1820 and died in 1873. He was a bachelor and came here from Daviess county where his people have been an honored family for many years. He was a boarder at the home of the late C. T. Hawes in the present J. W. Patterson home and contracted the small-pox and died there. Much excitement prevailed at the time as the type of small-pox prevailing was of a virulent one and vaccination was not general.

The graves of several members of the Reynolds family are sleepers in this cemetery but the data given on tombstones is meager and not much is known of them, except that long before the war members of the family kept the wharf boat here.

C. T. Hawes is buried here. He was the head of the last Hawes family to reside in the little city named after his forebearers. He reared a large family but they have all gone to other parts of the world and some have passed from earth. Mrs. Aurelia Carlton is the one person of Hawes ancestry living here. Her father was Wm. Hawes who was an attorney at Wickliffe, Ky.

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Memory Gardens (Hawesville Cemetery), Hawesville, KY

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The following are the pre-1850 tombstones found in a listing of the Hawesville Cemetery in the book, Hancock County, Kentucky Cemeteries, Volume 1, published by the West Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Owensboro, Ky., 1974, pp.87-121:

John Adams, died 8 June 1825 aged 56 years

Nancy Adams, died 7 May 1843 aged 65 years

Jesse S. Allen (s/o James R. & P. H.), died 14 Dec. 1844 aged 11 years

John C. Allen, died 25 March 1839 aged 5 months & 3 days

David Augustus, born 21 May 1789, died 27 March 1837

T. W. Battman (nephew of Dr. T. Holmes), died 9 May 1841 in his 18th year

John W. H. Brockman, died 6 Sept. 1843 in the 28th year of his age

Aquila Cosler, died 20 Oct. 1840 aged 36 years & 11 months

Mary Cosler (wife of William), died 6 Jan. 1846 aged 65 years & 8 months

Laetitia Cox (consort of Robert H.), died 9 Nov. 1837 aged 23 years

Jehu Hardin Davison, born 7 May 1820, died 26 Sept. 1848

William Davison, born 27 Aug. 1787, died 21 Aug. 1839

William Hardin Davison, born 10 Feb. 1818, died 8 Aug. 1840

Imogene C. Downer, died 19 August 1845 aged 5 years

John Henry Downer, died 11 August 1845

Margaret Caroline Downer, died 11 March 1845 aged 5 years

Thomas Faulconer (s/o N., & H., of Virginia), died 22 Sept. 1840 in his 20th year

Nancy Gibbs (wife of J. H.), died 4 Sept. 1841 aged 65 years

Charles W. Harris, Dentist, formerly of Edinton, N.C., died 21 April 1837

Hester Holmes (d/o Timothy & Elizabeth), died 16 March 1839 in her 6th year

Sarah Jane Lewis (d/o Elisha & Johannah), died 17 Sept. 1837 aged 9 months

W. L. McAdams, died 25 Oct. 1843 in the 25th year of his age

Medora Jane Moredock (d/o J.T. & M.A.), born 9 July 1846, died 3 Jan. 1847

Nancy Moredock (d/o J.T. & M.A.) born 27 Mar. 1834, died 20 Aug. 1834

Sarah C. Moredock (d/o J.T. & M.A.), born 8 May 1837, died July 1840

Sabrina Nunn (consort of Richard O.), died 29 Oct. 1840 in her 36th year

Hetty Ann Patterson (d/o Thos. H. & Martha C.), died 15 April 1837 in her 3rd yr.

John H. Powers (s/o C.N. & S.), born 19 April 1847, died 8 July 1847

Mrs. Mary Ann Prescott, died 24 Sept. 1832 aged 18 years & 16 days

Rebecca B. Prescott (consort of Wm. S.), died 17 Feb. 1838 in her 29th year

John W. Rial, born 6 Oct. 1843, died 11 Oct. 1843

John Sampson, died 29 Nov. 1839 in his 29th year

Richard Smart (Mason), died 23 Feb. 1847 aged 50 years

Sarah D. Stone (d/o J.E. & K.D.L.), died 1 Feb. 1849 aged 3 months & 27 days

William L. Stone (s/o James E. & Katherine D.L.), died 3 April 1839 in his 3rd year

Mildred C. Williams (consort of Otto W.), died 18 Oct. 1846 in her 69th year

Sally Williams, born in Va. 29 Jan. 1769, died Sept. 1836 in her 68th year