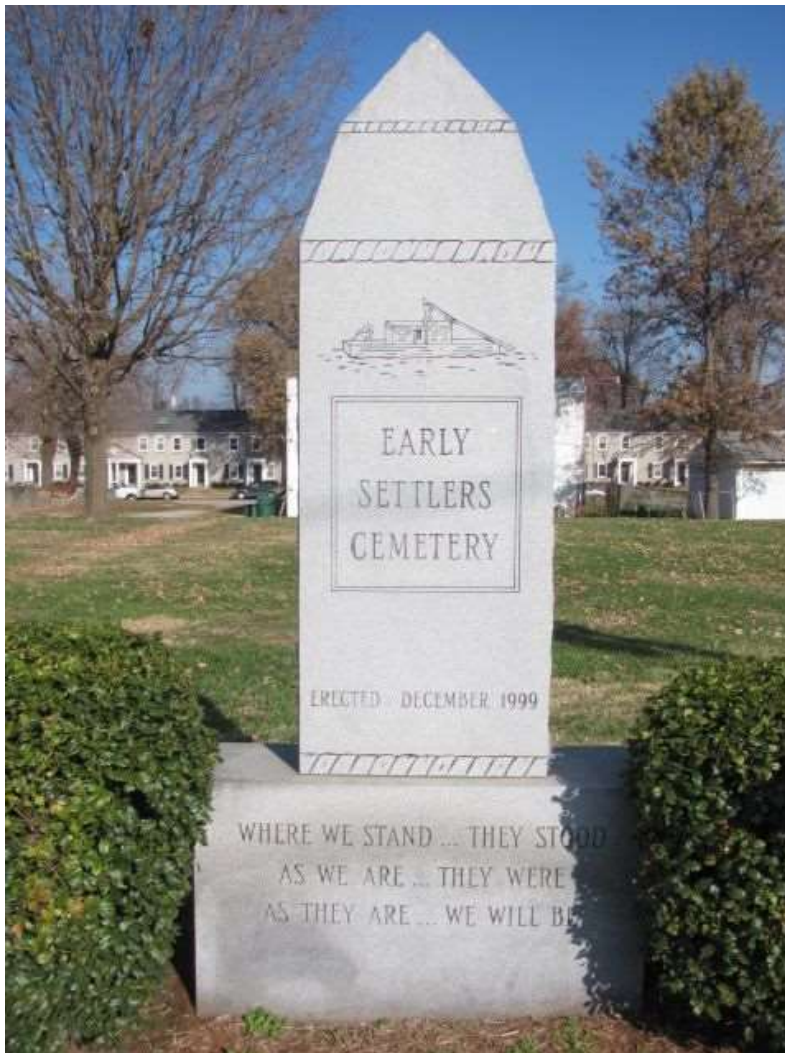


# Early Settlers Cemetery

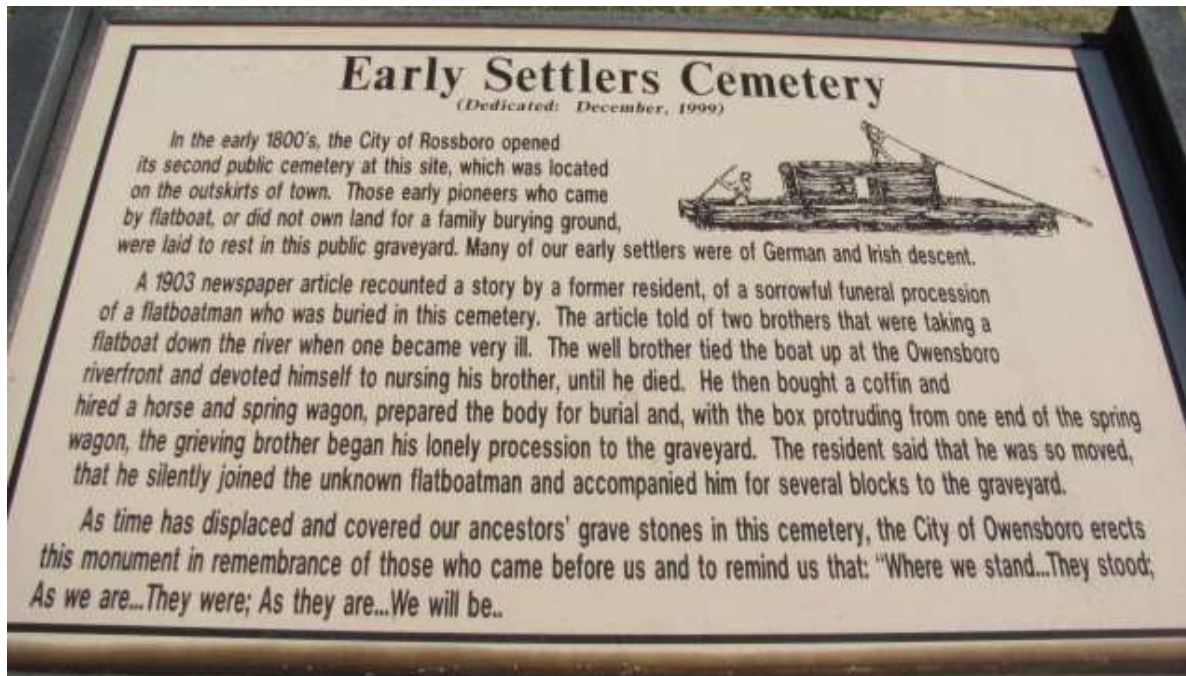
Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

By Jerry Long



Early Settlers Cemetery  
Erected December 1999

Where We Stand – They Stood  
As We Are – They Were  
As They Are – We Will Be



In the early 1800's, the city of Rossboro opened its second public cemetery at this site, which was located on the outskirts of town. Those early pioneers who came by flatboat, or did not own land for a family burying ground, were laid to rest in the public graveyard. Many of our early settlers were of German and Irish descent.

1903 newspaper article recounted a story by a former resident, of a sorrowful funeral procession of a flatboatman who was buried in the cemetery. The article told of two brothers that were taking a flatboat down the river when one became very ill. The well brother tied the boat up at the Owensboro riverfont and devoted himself to nursing his brother, until he died. He then bought a coffin and hired a horse and spring wagon, prepared the body for burial and, with the box protruding from one end of the spring wagon, the grieving brother began his lonely procession to the graveyard. The resident said that he was so moved, that he silently joined the unknown flatboatman and accompanied him for several blocks to the graveyard.

As time has displaced and covered our ancestors' grave stones in this cemetery, the City of Owensboro erects this monument in remembrance of those who came before us and to remind us that: :Where we stand... They stood; As we are... They were; As they are... We will be...



**From "Catalog of Daviess County, Kentucky Cemeteries", compiled by Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY, 2015, pp.23-24:**

### Early Settlers Cemetery

**Location:** In Owensboro on north side of West Ninth Street (formerly Henderson Road and McFarland Street) just west of the L., H. & St. L. railroad tracks.

**Notes:** City burying ground established in 1840. City cemetery in 1852 was moved to the eastern side of Owensboro. No record of burials here. In 1972 this writer (Jerry Long) visited the

cemetery and found one remaining tombstone. It was flat on the ground, partly buried and unreadable.

Source: Daviess County Deed Book F, pp.426-427 – on 31 July 1840 William N. Mason transferred 2 ½ acres on the Henderson Road to the trustees of the town of Owensborough for the purpose of a town burial ground; History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, IL, 1883, p.405; “But Two Slabs Left: Standing in the Old City Cemetery on McFarland Street“, Owensboro Messenger, July 12, 1903, p.1 (in 1903 only two monuments remained in the cemetery - one was for Edward Teare, who died on October 29, 1850 at the age of 26 and the other for a child, with first name of James, who died on September 1, 1866 at the age of two years & eight months, also buried here are the father & grandfather of M. L. Ogden, Sr.); “Will Oppose Confirmation”, Owensboro Messenger, October 2, 1906, p.1 (city investigating whether they can use as a park the ground on West McFarland Street deeded by William Mason to be used as a cemetery); “Mule Pasture In Graveyard”, Owensboro Messenger, January 12, 1907, p.3 (suit filed over old city cemetery on McFarland, bounded by Mildred, Poplar & Maple Streets); “The Cemeteries That Have Been In Owensboro”, Owensboro Messenger, July 25, 1909, p4B; “Parts of City Built Over Old Cemeteries”, Owensboro Messenger, Ida F. Cockriel, November 18, 1942, p.4A; “Ninth Street Park”, History Owensboro Parks and Recreation 1815-1990, Evan Ray Russell, 1990, p.140 (when a streetcar line was laid in 1912 it ran through Ninth Street Cemetery exposing some of the graves); “Graves at city park halt development”, Mark Cooper, Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, August 19, 1999, p.1B; “Marker planned for early cemetery”, Sharon Wright, Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, November 1, 1999, p.1C; Monument dedicated, Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, December 22, 1999, p.1A.



**Daviess County, KY Deed Book F., pp. 426-427:**

This indenture made and entered into this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1840 between John Roberts, S. M. Wing, William Henry Bransford, David Morton, Edward Williams, James J. Bowlds, John K. Miller trustees of the town of Owensborough, Ky. of the first part & William N. Mason of the second part. Witnesseth that whereas the said parties of the first part, by virtue of the power and authority vested in them by deed of conveyance from by James Prentis trustee for Mays representatives by Robert Triplett his attorney in fact, & the said Robert Triplett in his own right, are authorized to exchange so much of 2 acre lot No. 6 being the lot on which the burying ground was located in the town of Owensborough, Ky., as has not been made use of as yet for that purpose for a more convenient & suitable location. And whereas the said William N. Mason having agreed to give the trustees & their successors in office 2 ½ acres of ground adjoining the said town & on the south of 2 acre lot No. 6 lying on the Henderson Road for that portion of said 2 acre lot No. 6 which has not been made use of as aforesaid. Now therefore this indenture witnesseth that the said trustees for & in consideration of the ? presents & the sum of 1 dollar to them paid, have granted bargained & sold & by these presents do grant bargain & sell, alien release & convey unto the said William N. Mason & his heirs or assigns forever all that part or portion of said 2 acre lot No. 6 as designated on the map or chart of the town of Owensborough which is unoccupied as aforesaid &

the said William N. Mason hereby for the consideration of one dollar bargains & sells & conveys, & by these presents doth bargain sell & alien, release & convey unto the said trustees to & a half acres of ground of 2 acre lot No. 6 being part of the same land deeded to him by Benjamin Duncan, and their successors in office forever for a burying ground of said town on the said lot No. 6, said 2 & ½ acres of ground intended to be conveyed by this deed lies on the south side of said lot No. 6 adjoining said town and is bounded as follows to wit. Beginning at the southwest corner of said ? two acre lot thence north ..... to the beginning, containing 2 ½ acres. To have & to hold the same unto them the said trustees & their successors in office for a burying ground forever as aforesaid & the parties to this indenture hereby ratify & confirm to the other parties respectively the pieces of ground herein severally conveyed, for the uses herein before stated & they warrant & defend against all persons lawfully claiming or to claim the premises herein before set forth. In testimony whereof the parties to this indenture here have unto severally affixed their signatures & seals the day & year first written.

Signed by John Roberts, S. M. Wing, William Henry Bransford, David Morton, Ed. Williams, James J. Bowlds, John K. Miller, and William Mason.

[Deed was recorded 14 December 1840. By Daviess County Deed Books F, p.476 and G, pp228-229 William N. Mason sold land that adjoining the burial ground lot.]



**History of Daviess County, Kentucky,  
Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, IL, 1883, pp.405-406:**

**CEMETERIES.**

The first burying ground for Owensboro was on Fourth street, south of the public square, and in the vicinity of the old "Masonic Lodge" building. It extended west to St. Elizabeth street. Most of the dead who were buried there still remain. In 1840 the place of burial was changed to a point on the Henderson road, just beyond the city limits. Most of the remains buried here have been removed. Paupers, however, are still buried in this ground. In 1852 the cemetery was moved to the southeastern portion of the city, comprising the ground between Triplett and Center streets, and Fourth and Sixth. All the dead buried here have been removed. These grounds were owned by a company of stockholders, and controlled by a directory. The first two spoken of above were owned and controlled by the city.

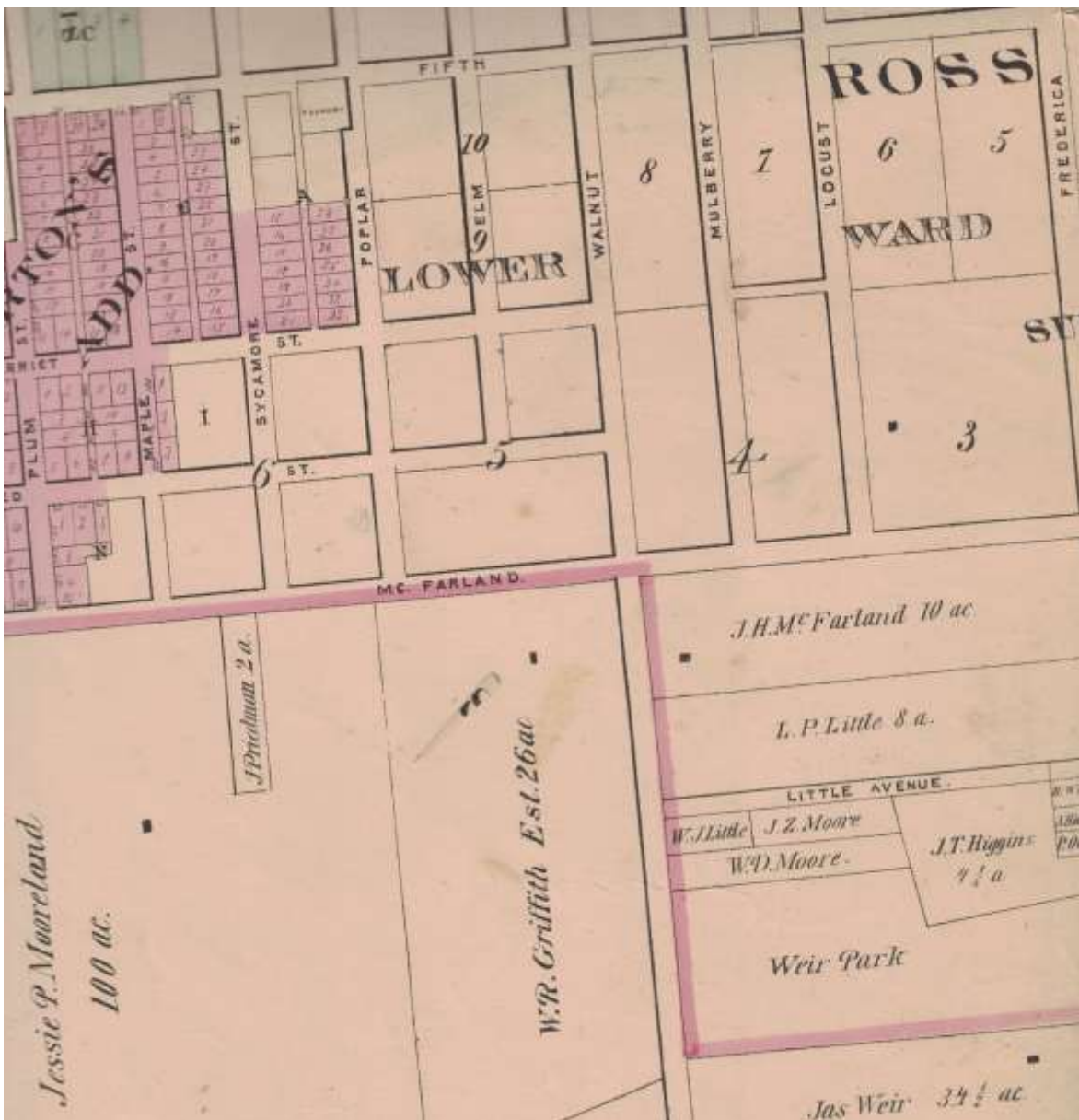
Elmwood Cemetery. — In the year 1856, seeing the necessity for a cemetery, a company of the citizens of Owensboro was formed, composed of William Bell, James Weir, R. M. Hathaway, George Scarborough, D. M. Griffith, F. M. Pearl, J. B. Anderson, Robert Craig, John H. McHenry, Sr., S. M. Wing and E. A. Hathaway, who purchased of R. M. Hathaway and F. M. Pearl nine acres and a fraction of ground in what is known as Hathaway's addition to Owensboro, and named same "Rural Cemetery."

The use of said grounds was continued until 1868, When, owing to their smallness and the growth of the city around them, it became necessary to seek a more spacious and suitable place for a cemetery. After due consideration, forty acres of ground, situated about one mile southeast of Owensboro, on the Hartford road, were selected and purchased of John G. Barkley, by the following persons: S. M. Wing, James Weir, R. M. Hathaway, D.



M. Griffith, J. F. Kimbley, C. Griffith, T. S. Venable, W. B. Tyler, W. N. Sweeney, B. Bransford, T. S. Anderson, David Hamilton, J. H. McHenry, Jr., Charles Werner, John G. Barkley, W. T. Courtney, S. H. Ford and W. H. Perkins. C. R. Milne, in May, 1875, was admitted into the company, on the same footing with the above-named stockholders, and each one received a certificate of the company's indebtedness to him for \$200, to bear twelve per cent interest, annually. The name given to the grounds was "Rural Hill Cemetery"—changed in April, 1869, to Elmwood, its present name.

Nearly all the persons buried in the old cemetery were removed to the new at the expense of the company, and each lot-owner in the old cemetery received a lot in the new one instead.



Part of “Map of Owensboro” from the 1876 Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY. (Leo McDonough & Co., p.81), The cemetery later referred to as the Early Pioneers Cemetery was located on the north side of McFarland Street (9<sup>th</sup> Street) between Maple, Poplar and Mildred (8<sup>th</sup> Street).



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 23 August 1889, p4:**

IN ROLE OF GHOUL.

Barnett Kelly Charges the L., St. L. and T.  
Railroad With Desecrating Graves.

A \$10,000 Damage Suit for Treating Human Bones Like Those of Beasts  
Is the Petition Good?

B. T. Kelly filed a suit in the circuit court yesterday against the L., St. L. and T. railroad for \$10,000 damages for desecrating the graves of his relatives in the old cemetery on the Henderson road.

The petition states that the plaintiff buried his father-in-law, mother-in-law and daughter in the cemetery and that it was his duty and pleasure to care for their graves, but that the defendant ruthlessly, wantonly, maliciously and without right took possession of the grounds and made a cut through them, exposing the remains of plaintiff's relatives aforesaid and scattering their bones about as though they were the bones of beasts and not of human beings. The plaintiff says that by this action on the part of defendant, its agents and employes, his feelings of love and regard for the memory of his dead were shocked and outraged and that he was damaged thereby in the sum prayed for.

The old cemetery, embracing two and one-half acres of ground, was given to Owensboro in 1840 for perpetual use as a burial place for citizens of the town and continued to be generally used for that purpose until the opening of Elmwood Cemetery, when most of the dead were removed there. When the city gave the railroad the right of way through the cemetery it was with the express stipulation that the bodies of those who were buried in the line of the road should be taken up in a careful and decent manner and re-interred at Elmwood or elsewhere at the cost of the company. If the statements made in Kelly's petition are true the city should take the matter in hand and procure satisfaction from the railroad.

[Note: Benjamin Talbot (“B. T.”) Kelly (c1817-1896) & Barnett Kelly (1822-1892) were brothers. B. T. is the one who brought the foregoing suit. Subsequent to the death of Barnett Kelly the suit was still being actively pursued by his brother, B. T. Several notices about the continuance of the case were published in the newspaper but details were not provided. The Owensboro Messenger of 22 June 1898 (p.5) reported in an article about the actions of the Daviess County Circuit Court – “The action of B. T. Kelly against the L., St. L. and T. Railroad company was dismissed.” Benjamin T. Kelly is listed in the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses of Daviess County, KY. He married Ann Elizabeth Hemmingway on 29 September 1842 in Daviess County.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 12 July 1903, p.9:**

BUT TWO SLABS LEFT  
Standing in the Old City Cemetery on McFarland Street,  
NATIVE OF ISLE OF MAN SLEEPS IN ONE GRAVE.  
HE WAS BURIED 53 YEARS AGO.

Capt. Hall Tells of the Sad Funeral of a Flat Boatman Who Died On Board Here.

In the old city cemetery on West McFarland street there are now left but two slabs standing. These are of marble and are only about eighteen inches high. One is of a child two years and eight months old, that died September 1, 1866. The first part of the name is James Gill and is quite legible, but the latter part or sur-name is so worn by time that it cannot be read. It seems to have been "Best" or "Chist" or some similar name. Several old citizens were asked, but not one seemed to know the family.

The other slab records very plainly the last resting place of a native of the Isle of Man named Edward Teare. He died October 29, 1850 and was twenty-six years old. No one now remembers who he was and no such name appears in the directory, nor is it known In Owensboro.

Capt. Frank Hall, who knows more of Owensboro's tradition than most men, was asked about this wanderer from the far-away isle in the Irish sea, but he could recall nothing. He said the occupant of this grave might have been a flatboatman, that such were often buried here. He said, in this connection, that the saddest funeral he ever saw was that of a flatboatman. Two brothers were taking a flatboat clown the river when one became very sick. The one who was well tied the boat up at Owensboro and devoted himself to nursing his brother until he died. He then went and bought a coffin and hired a horse and spring wagon, prepared the body for burial and with the box from one end of the spring wagon, followed it to the graveyard. Capt. Hall says the lonely funeral impressed him so strongly that he fell in with the scant procession and accompanied the sad man for several blocks.

The third stone bearing a partial record has been broken in two and only one part remains. This shows several, lines of a pretty German verse. Two of the rhyming words are "herz" (heart) and "schmerz" (pain). The concluding four lines seem to be:

"Mir sehr wohb gesehen  
Ich lebin warund Freund  
Ihn solle nicht wieder sehen  
Derlinder Herrlichklein."

The stone was put up by M. Helm, of Cannelton, Ind., who died about thirty years ago.

These three stones are in the section east of the L. H. and St. L. R. R. In the west section no stone remains. On the east side, only one lot remains fenced to itself. This is about twenty- feet square and contains the remains of the father and the grandfather of M. L. Ogden, Sr. The graves are unmarked save by the young trees that have grown up and that now shade them.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 2 October 1906, p.1:**

... A meeting of the city council was held last night... The mayor and attorney were instructed to confer with the representatives of the heirs of William Mason and ascertain whether or not it will be agreeable to them for the city to use as a park the ground on West McFarland street deeded by William Mason to be used as a cemetery.”



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 12 January 1907, p.3:**

MULE PASTURE IN GRAVEYARD

Alleged In Suit For Recovery Of Land.  
BY MASON’S HEIRS AGAINST THE CITY OF OWENSBORO.

DEED MADE SIXTY YEARS AGO

Plaintiffs Allege That City Has Failed to Maintain  
Trust Which Was Consideration For Transfer.

Ground which has been in possession of the city of Owensboro for sixty-seven years and which was for many years the city cemetery, is the subject of litigation in a suit filed yesterday in the Daviess circuit court by James Short and Rebecca Daily against the city. The property involved is the old cemetery site on McFarland street, west. It is a block in area and is bounded by McFarland, Mildred, Poplar and Maple streets. The plaintiffs assert the property belongs to them by reversion as the heirs of William N. Mason, the city having abandoned the trust which was the only consideration for its transfer from Mason.

The petition recites that "William Mason died a number of years ago without children, and that his only heirs are Rebecca Daily, a sister, and James Short, a nephew, and it is averred that these plaintiffs are owners by descent of the lots of ground described, and that the city is in wrongful possession.

It is stated that on July 31, 1840 William N. Mason attempted to convey the property in question to John Roberts, S. M. Wing, W. H. Bransford David Morton, Edward Williams, James J. Bowlds and John K. Miller, trustees of the town of Owensboro, and their successors in office. There was a habere dum clause, "to have and to hold the same to them the said trustees and their successors in office, for a burying ground forever."

Plaintiffs say that no consideration was paid for the transfer and that the trustees had no power or authority to receive the property on such terms, although they assumed the power and attempted to carry out the trust thus sought to be created.

Plaintiffs say that the land was used for a burying ground for many years, but that for the past fifteen years it has been wholly abandoned and is no longer used for this purpose, that no person has been buried there for more than fifteen years, and that the bodies of those who were buried there have been taken up and removed with the exception of a few whose identity and place of interment have long since been lost. It is further alleged that the city has converted the ground into a mule pasture.

The trust, the plaintiffs aver, is no longer effective, the sole consideration having been the creation and permanent keeping of a burying ground, which has failed and been wholly abandoned. They aver that the property thus reverts to them and pray the court to adjudge that the trust has



been terminated, that they be adjudged the owners of the lot and their title quieted and that they have judgment for possession and for \$250 damages for wrongful detention.

Elliott B. Mason, W. E. Aud, La Vega Clements and Ben D. Ringo are attorneys for the plaintiffs.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 25 July 1909, p.4B:**

**The Cemeteries That Have Been In Owensboro**

At this time when the preservation of Elmwood cemetery for the benefit of the people generally is being considered it is timely to take a glance at other cemeteries and especially at those that have gone, into decay or disuse whether as the result of the carelessness of citizens or because of the encroachments of the growing city.

At first glance it seems absurd that the people who built the first few houses here should have selected a site only, blocks from the river as the place where they should bury their dead and yet that is just what occurred. The first, cemetery of the town was located on Fourth street running back towards Fifth and is now immediately in the rear of Trinity Episcopal church.

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The next location for a cemetery was on East Fourth street beginning where Bransford's mill is now located running back towards Sixth street east of Triplett. This cemetery was in use for several years before and since the war and few stones still remain on the elevation south of Fifth and east of the tobacco factory at Fifth and Triplett. It was used concurrently with the cemetery on West Ninth.

This latter cemetery still preserves some of the appearances, of a burial place for the dead but only in the western part where there is an inclosure graves for a few graves in the central part where there are two slabs lefts in whole or in part. These are of marble and they are less than two feet in height. The inscription of one is for a child that died September 1, 1866, when, it was two years and eight months old. This much is plainly shown as is the first part of the name which was "James Gill" but the latter part or the surname is illegible or erased but it seems to have been "Best" or "Christ," or some similar name. Several old people were asked about the name but there seem to be none here now who recall any, such name.

In the other grave rests the remains of Edward Teare, who died October 29, 1850, when he was twenty-six years old. This much is plainly legible still on his tombstone as is the fact that he was a native. of the Isle of Man. No one now remembers who he was nor. is it in the directory, nor is there such a name known in the city. One venerable old citizen was asked in regard to this name of a wanderer from the isle in the far away Irish sea and he said he heard of it but thought that it might be the name of a flatboat man or even of a passenger on some of the many boats of that day, as persons who died on the were often buried along the river. If they were poor and friendless they were often put away carelessly and inexpensively in some obscure place on the river bank but if they had relatives or friends with them or if they had money enough to give them a decent burial they were treated with more consideration. In those days the cholera was prevalent often and many strangers were buried hastily: all along the river when they died of this disease.

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In this connection the old citizen said the saddest funeral he ever saw was that of a flatboatman. Two brothers were taking a flatboat down the river when one of them became very ill. The one who was in good health tied the boat up here and devoted himself solely to nursing his sick brother. His attentions and the medical assistance that he secured were in vain and the sick man died. The surviving brother went and bought a coffin, hired a horse and spring wagon, prepared the body for burial and then with coffin extending out behind the body of the wagon followed it to the graveyard. "As the sad funeral procession came along," said the Messenger's informant, "I was so impressed that I fell in with the sad and lonely man and accompanied him several blocks and I have always regretted that I did not go to the graveyard." That may have been the corpse of Edward Teare and his slab, the only remaining one in the old cemetery, that plainly tells of who lies under it, may be the lasting testimonial to that brother's devotion.

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There is a third stone in the old cemetery but it is so badly broken that only a part remains. This shows several lines of a pretty German verse. Two of the rhyming words are "herz" (heart) and "schmerz" (pain). The concluding four lines seem to be:

"Mir sehr wohl gesehens  
Ich lebin warund Freund.  
Ihn selle nich wiedey sehen  
De? Linder Herr lich klein.

The stone is marked as having been put up or at least prepared by M. Heim, who kept a marble yard at Cannelton, Ind., where he died about thirty-five years ago.

These three stones are in the division of the old cemetery on the east side of the L. H & St. L. railroad. In the west section no stone remains. There is but one lot remaining fenced on the east side and it is overgrown with bushes and briars. This lot is about twenty feet square and contains the remains of the father and grandfather of M. L. Ogden, Sr.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 17 March 1914, p3:**

LITTLE CITY PARK FOR WEST NINTH  
Former Cemetary Will be Beautified at Once

West Ninth street is to have a city park; This decision was reached at a meeting of the city council on Monday night. The lot of ground owned by the city at the intersection of the L. H. and St. L. railroad track and West Ninth street, which at one time was a cemetery, will be converted into a park. The parks and grounds committee of the city council will have charge of the work. Bluegrass will be sowed and walks laid out. Benches and swings will also be provided. Very few of the tombstones remain at the plot of ground.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 19 January 1915, p.8:**

Annual Message By Mayor

## Parks

I beg to state that I am an ardent advocate of a system of small parks and recreation grounds in different sections of the city. I can't imagine anything that will add more to the beauty and healthfulness of a city than parks and playgrounds. The cost of the ground is practically the only expense attached to same, as the work of improving and beautifying can be done largely by the city prisoners. During the past year we added new seat and swings at Hickman park and improved the looks of same quite considerably. Converting the old cemetery on West Ninth street into a little park has met with the approval of the people in that section. The ground was cleared of undergrowth, graded, trees planted and provided with light and water...

... Now, until the three small parks mentioned are properly christened, I suggest a means of identification that we call the one on West Ninth street Sunset park, the one near the city stables City part, and the one on the river River View park.

Respectfully,  
J. H. HICKMAN, Mayor.

[Note: The city park on the riverfront in downtown Owensboro was later referred to as Sunset Park and the park on west ninth street was called the "Ninth Street Park". Various social and religious functions were held at the Ninth Street Park over the years. Several evangelist held tent revivals there, including Maurice Davis.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 9 March 1915, p.6:**

### City Is Busy On Park Question

... Councilman C. O. Brown is giving the West Ninth-street park his personal attention. Cleaning tip the ground and replacing a number of the trees that have not survived since last summer's setting, is being done now, so that the grass will not be disturbed when it comes later.



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 14 June 1923, p.10:**

### City Brevities

Excavators, working on a ditch for laying mains in Poplar street, at Ninth, dug up, this morning, parts of the skeletons of two people, buried about six feet under the ground. Poplar street, at Ninth, was once part of a cemetery, most of the remainder of which is now West Ninth Street park. The parts dug up this morning were two skulls and decomposing bones of the remainder of two bodies. Residents of that part of town recalled that a few years ago, when excavations were being made for sewerage connections for the store now occupied by C. J. Montgomery, a skeleton was dug up there, evidently that of a woman, rubber hair pins being found in a state of relatively good preservation, near the skull.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 18 November 1942, p.4A:**



If a stray ghost is ever seen on the down-town streets of Owensboro, in the wee small hours of the morning, by a person who may have tipped the flowing bowl, too freely, the ghost may be real, nevertheless. I may be the spirit of an early pioneer, waiting for the resurrection morn in his resting place, Owensboro's first cemetery, which was right down-town.

It was sometime after 1810 that the first cemetery was laid out on a plot of ground which is now Third and Fourth streets from St. Ann to St. Elizabeth streets. Foundations of many buildings in that section now rest on the dust from the bones of those early men and women, for the graves were not all moved, when another cemetery was opened on the outskirts of Owensboro which was Fifth street, in the 1850's.

And if any ghosts ever flit about in the shadows of the small wooded plot on the north side of West Ninth street near the railroad crossing, they too are spirits of early pioneers who were laid to rest and are still resting there. For being a town cemetery, where its paupers were buried, the city did not bother to disturb the sleeping ones when other cemeteries were opened in later years, and those men and women still sleep on, waiting for Gabriel and that last trumpet call.

It was in 1840 when the business district of Owensboro encroached on Third street that the city decided to start a cemetery out on the Henderson road, outside of town. So a plot of ground was purchased. The Henderson road then, as now, was Ninth street, and the cemetery, which is now that shady plot, and the scene of many an ardent evangelist's exhortations, was then in the country.

Some tombstones remained there for many years, and some of Owensboro's present residents remember that cemetery as they well remember the one in the southeast section of Owensboro covering ground between Triplett and Center streets and Fourth and Sixth streets. The latter cemetery was opened in 1852, and remnants of tombstones are still visible in lawns of some of the homes in that section. This cemetery was a part of Rural cemetery which was started in 1856, when Owensboro had grown so rapidly that it was encroaching on the cemetery at Fifth street. The Rural cemetery was merely an expansion of the one opened in 1852.

Rural cemetery was used until in 1868 when, owing to the continued growth of the city which was rapidly encroaching on the cemetery's territory, it became apparent that more spacious grounds would be necessary. In that year 40 acres of ground were purchased on the Hartford road a mile southeast of Owensboro. The company's minutes show that it offered to move all persons buried in the old Rural cemetery, providing written consent could be secured from the families.



Many were moved to their new grounds, but some families refused to consent to the removal, and in other instances no families could be found to give the consent, and hence the dead remained undisturbed and still remain with inhabited homes as their monuments. That section is now a residential section, with a house on every lot and little mention is ever made of the cemetery, or the persons still buried there. In April, 1869, the name Rural Hill cemetery was changed to Elmwood which it has retained since that time.

John A. Bidwell, present sexton of Elmwood holds an unique record, having served in that capacity since May 7, 1901. Mr. Bidwell is the father of Police Chief Vernie Bidwell. The pauper cemetery is next to Elmwood, and contains more than two acres purchased by the city of Owensboro in 1868 from the Rural Hill company.

In 1861 the Catholic cemetery was opened on the Henderson road. The description given of it at that time was that it was a "half mile below town." Now the town extends beyond it.

Owensboro's newest cemetery, Rose Hill was opened in 1916. Containing more than 20 acres, the first burial was made on November 21, 1916, when J. Wesley Howard was laid to rest.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 29 June 1978, p.1C:**

**Picnicking: A guide to Owensboro picnic spots  
for Hydrofair, Fourth of July celebrations**

... Three neighborhood miniparks also are furnished with picnic tables, grills and recreation areas. The 9th Street Park between Maple and Poplar streets, York Park is located off Bosley Road on York Street near where it branches into North and South streets. The third minipark is Shifley Park on Bittel Road at Dallas Avenue, just beyond Carter Road. Shade trees, picnic tables and some playground equipment are features at the 9th Street Park...



**History Owensboro Parks and Recreation, 1815-1990, Evan Ray Russell,  
Progress Printing Co., Inc., Owensboro, KY, 1990, p.104:**

**NINTH STREET PARK**

Ninth Street Park is a small (approximately 3 acres) neighborhood park. The use of the park is limited due to the railroad tracks which split the park into two separate areas. The existing facilities include: playground equipment, fountain, benches, grills and picnic tables. It was acquired in 1840 as a cemetery and became the second burial ground in Owensboro. First burial grounds were between St. Elizabeth Street and St. Ann Street and from Third to Fourth Streets in downtown Owensboro. Bodies buried here were probably never moved.

Graves at the Ninth Street Cemetery were moved to a third burial ground on Fifth Street, just off Triplett Street. It was called Rural Cemetery. When a streetcar line was laid in 1912, it ran through Ninth Street Cemetery, exposing some of the graves. Ninth Street was paved in 1924.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 19 August 1999, p.1B:**

## Graves at city park halt development

By Mark Cooper, Messenger-Inquirer

Owensboro's Ninth Street Park is a cemetery, a revelation that will likely keep city leaders from adding playground equipment to the park.

An unknown number of unmarked graves are located at the tiny city-owned park near Ninth and Poplar, City Manager Ron Payne told the Owensboro City Commission Wednesday.

The only way the city could develop the park would be to remove the graves to another cemetery, a project that would be cost-prohibitive, Payne said.

"Removing those graves would be very costly," Payne said.

City commissioners had hoped to purchase \$20,000 worth of playground equipment for the park, which currently sits empty, after the commission removed playground equipment from Smothers Park to make way for the Col. Charles E. Shelton Freedom Memorial.

The cemetery dates back to as early as 1824, said Charlotte Bradley, whose great-grandfather, John Jacob Friedman, once owned the land and was the cemetery's caretaker. The cemetery may be one of the oldest in the area, she said.

Many graves in the cemetery were moved about 1918 when the railroad cut into the cemetery on the north side, Bradley said.

But at some point, all of the grave markers were removed and all records of the graves – including information about who is buried there – have been lost or destroyed, she said.

"There were head stones there as late as the 1960s," Bradley said. "Now, there is no way of knowing what's there without digging."

Bradley urged the commission to leave the park undeveloped.

Mayor Waymond Morris agreed, but said the city will erect a marker or plaque there to maintain the property's sacred status and avoid future confusion.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 1 November 1999, p.1C:**

## Marker planned for early cemetery

By Sharon Wright, Messenger-Inquirer

The plan was for nothing fancy, just a few swings and sliding boards for children in the neighborhood surrounding a three-acre green space on West Ninth Street.

That was before city officials learned the proposed playground would have covered one of Owensboro's oldest burial grounds.

Charlotte Bradley of Redbud Road returned home one evening to see a newspaper story about the plan to create a park within what was essentially an open space with railroad tracks traversing the right of way.

"By 9 that night, I was sitting in (Mayor) Waymond Morris' living room and discussing Owensboro history," said Bradley, a 67-year-old Owensboro native whose great-grandfather, John Jacob Friedmann, tended the graves of early settlers in the unnamed cemetery in the late 1800s.

Bradley asked that the city not develop the property, something it would be unable to do under state law anyway if indeed it were a graveyard.

At the mayor's request, the city parks and recreation department researched the issue and found the city had acquired the property as a public graveyard around 1840.

But if there were records documenting how many people were buried there, they had been lost long ago, said Sue Fowler, administrative parks and recreation assistant.

Bradley said her mother and grandmother witnessed the exhumation of some graves when the railroad claimed the right of way in the late 1920s. The cemetery later fell into disrepair, she said, and the last headstone had disappeared by the early 1960s.

Fowler said city officials decided the only way to determine whether there were still graves on the property was to embark upon a costly and time-consuming exhumation process.

When Morris suggested the city simply mark the ground with a monument, Fowler sat down to design one.

Her sketch depicts a 6-foot-tall marker of limestone and granite with an etching of two settlers guiding a barge near the top. The front would bear the name "Early Settlers Cemetery" and a poem Bradley had spied in another cemetery while visiting her daughter in a Detroit suburb:

"Where we stand, they stood. As we are, they were. As they are, we will be."

Fowler said the \$2,600 monument, being built by Gilbert Mischel Family Monuments, will likely be dedicated in a December ceremony.

Bradley said she felt it important to preserve the site.

"I think any time you find a gravesite, whether it's marked or not, it should be preserved and marked as such, so there's nothing that's going to desecrate it in the future."



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 22 December 1999, p.1A:**



Monument dedicated: Charlotte Bradley stands in front of a monument marking the mark-site of an early settlers' cemetery during the monument's dedication Tuesday afternoon at Ninth and Poplar streets. The cemetery was established in the early 1800's, though no markers remain.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 27 June 2022:**

**Ninth Street Park once a cemetery**

By Nathan Havenner, Messenger-Inquirer

Situated at the corner of W. Ninth Street and Poplar Street, a lone monument and informational sign are the lone features of this city park.

Coming in at 3-acres, Ninth Street Park was originally acquired for use as a cemetery in 1840, becoming the second oldest burial ground in Owensboro.

According to the book, "History, Owensboro Parks and Recreation," published in 1990 by Evan Ray Russell, the majority of the graves at what was then Ninth Street Cemetery were moved to a third burial ground located off Fifth Street called Rural Cemetery.

The Messenger-Inquirer reported in its Aug. 19, 1999 edition that the discovery of graves at the park would prevent any amenities from being added to the vacant park.

According to that story, "An unknown number of unmarked graves are located at the tiny city-owned park near Ninth and Poplar, City Manager Ron Payne told the Owensboro City Commission Wednesday."

The article says that the only way the city could develop the park would be to remove the graves to another cemetery, something Payne said at that time would be an expensive undertaking.

"City commissioners had hoped to purchase \$20,000 worth of playground equipment for the park, which currently sits empty after the commission removed playground equipment from Smothers Park to make way for the Col. Shelton Freedom Memorial," the article reads.

Mayor Waymond Morris said at the time that the city would erect a marker or plaque there to maintain the property's sacred status and avoid future confusion.

The June 14, 1923, issue of the Messenger-Inquirer reported that two sets of human remains had been discovered while work was being done along W. Ninth and Poplar streets.

"Excavators working on a ditch for laying mains in Poplar Street at Ninth, dug up this morning parts of the skeletons of two people, buried about six feet under the ground," the article states. "The parts dug up this morning were two skulls and the remainder of two bodies."

It was not the first time that remains from the old Ninth Street Cemetery had been unearthed due to urban development.

"Residents of that part of town recalled that a few years ago, when excavations were being made for sewage connections for the store now occupied by C.J. Montgomery, a skeleton was dug up there, evidently that of a woman, rubber hair pins being found in a state of relatively good preservation near the skull," the article also reported.

Today, the monument dedicated by the city in 1999 stands within the park designating the land as the "Early Settlers Cemetery." An inscription at the base of the monument reads, "Where we stand they stood, where we are they were, where they are, we will be."





## **The following were buried in the Early Settlers Cemetery**

By Jerry Long

In parenthesis after each entry is the source(s) that indicate place of burial:

- Child, father-in-law and mother-in-law of Benjamin Talbot ('B. T.') Kelly (c1817-1896), who was the son of George Thomas Kelly & Jane Field; B. T. Kelly married Ann Elizabeth Hemingway, 29 September 1842 Daviess County, KY (source – "In Role Of Ghoul", Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 23 August 1889, p.4)
- George Thomas Kelly (c1780 – 9 December 1847) and his wife, Jane Field (c1785 – 1852) on Find A Grave internet site are reported to have been buried in the Early Settlers Cemetery; George was the son of Thomas Kelly; George T. Kelly & Jane Field were married on 17 February 1803 in Culpeper County, VA (source – Grandpappy Chronicles of a Daviess County Family, by Joseph William Castlen (1948- ), McDowell Publication, Utica, KY, 2008, copy in the Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY, library call #KR G Murp; Mr. Castlen states: In a letter dated March 6, 1931, Harry E. Thixton writes "Mrs. Leamon, whose husband was Mr. Murphy's cousin, told Mama that she remembers the Grandparents Kelly were buried in that abandoned grave-yard on Henderson Rd where the RR crosses, and it is her recollection their bodies were never removed to another place.")
- Horatio Ashby (1779 – 1849) and his wife, Hannah Field (1787 – 1851) on Find A Grave internet site are reported to be buried in the Early Settlers Cemetery – no sources are provided; Horatio was the son of George Ashby and Hannah Field was a daughter of John Field; Horatio & Hannah were married in Ohio County, KY on 28 March 1804.
- Edward Teare (1823-1850). A 1903 reading of the inscription on his gravestone reported that he was born in the Isle of White and died on 29 October 1850 at the age of 26 years & 8 months. He was not found in the Daviess County, KY 1850 federal census or the 1849 or 1850 tax lists. This suggests he was possibly a non-resident; he may have died while enroute to another destination and was left to rest here. (source – "But Two Slabs Left" Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 12 July 1903, p.9).
- Dr. Stephen Fletcher Ogden (c1798 – 14 January 1859), son of Benjamin Ogden & Nancy Puckett; married Sally Ann Daveiss on 21 April 1822 in Daviess County, KY; father of Marcus Lindsey Ogden (1836-1911). (sources – "But Two Slabs Left" Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 12 July 1903, p.9 and "Interesting Local History",

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro KY, 2 January 1916, 6A) The 1916 article says his wife Sally Ann (Daviess) Ogden (29 December 1807 - 23 September 1871) was also buried at the Early Pioneers Cemetery, however she has a gravestone in section D of Elmwood Cemetery, in Owensboro .

- John Daveiss (8 January 1779 – died 17 November 1852), prominent lawyer, minister, public official of Daviess County, KY; son of Joseph Davis & Jean Hamilton (sources – “Interesting Local History”, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro KY, 2 January 1916, 6A) and Owensboro Gazette, Owensboro, Ky, 25 November 1852, p3); four counties - Daviess County, KY, Daviess County, IN, Daviess, MO and Jo Daviess County, IL, were named in honor of his brother, Joseph Hamilton Daveiss (1774-1811), a hero of the War of 1812
- Sally Jones (Duncan) Daveiss (3 October 1787 – 6 July 1849), married John Daveiss in Nelson County, KY on 11 December 1806; daughter of Samuel Duncan & Sally Jones (source – “Interesting Local History”, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro KY, 2 January 1916, 6A)



## **The Daveiss Family**

### **Owensboro Gazette, Owensboro, KY, 25 November 1852, p.3:**

[Abstract] – John Daveiss died 17 November 1852 at home of Dr. S. F. Ogden; minister for 45 years, entered the ministry in about 1807; lawyer, entered into the practice of law at Hartford in 1802.

### **Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 23 February 1902, p.12:**

#### **JO DAVIESS FOR WHOM THE COUNTY OF DAVIESS WAS NAMED.**

Mrs. Harriotte Roberts, His Niece, Venerable and Interesting Resident of This City.

One of the most interesting women in Owensboro is Mrs. Harriotte Roberts. Her life history is that of Owensboro, for, born in this county, within a few miles of the then struggling village of Yellow Banks, in 1525. she came as a seventeen-year-old bride to the house where she has ever since resided, the oldest house in Owensboro. The fact that she is the niece of Jo Hamilton Daveiss. the man for whom the county was named, who was killed at the battle of Tippecanoe, is not generally known and it is with this famous pioneer lawyer, Indian fighter and statesman that this article is to deal. It had as well be stated that the present spelling of the name of this county (Daviess) is a corruption, the spelling of the name of its distinguished namesake being as above. The error grew out of a mistake in engrossing at the time the bill creating the county was passed. An effort was made to correct it by legislation, but popular acceptance has continued the mistaken way of spelling the name of the county.

Mrs. Roberts was born at what is now Pate's station, on the Louisville, Henderson and St. Louis railroad, four miles east of Owensboro, December 13, 1824, and was therefore seventy-seven years old the 13th of December last. Her father was John Daveiss, who was prosecuting attorney of the district which embraced the present limits of this county before it was organized, who was a prominent lawyer and practiced at all the courts in this part of the state and who was sheriff of this county from 1831 to 1833, a Baptist preacher and perhaps the first resident minister of this county. How he happened to come here involves a departure from the point in this story, but it may serve to give it a sort of setting and may be well to relate, and In this connection a fact in the life of Jo Daveiss which may not be generally known can be related and that is that he resided for several years within a quarter of a mile of the present limits of this city, leaving here in 1809 and going to Lexington.

Jo Daveiss knew and admired Bill Smothers, who had come from Virginia to Kentucky as a boy. Smothers became an Indian fighter, fought with Isaac Shelby, at King's Mountain, with Gen. Greene at Eutaw Springs and with Francis Marion at Guilford court house and upon his return to Lexington and Danville found the country so thickly populated, as he termed it, that he wandered down to where the town of Hartford is now situated, then to the Falls of Green river, at Vienna, where the town of Calhoon is now located, and then came to where Owensboro is now situated, built cabin and located here. He was the only white settler when he came here, from Green river to Blackford creek, now the dividing line between Daviess and Hancock counties.

#### Trial of Bill Smothers.

It was while Smothers was here that he killed a man named Norris, who came from a keel boat to his cabin and used indecent language in the presence of his sister, who lived with him. Smothers went to Squire Ben Duncan, who lived near where the town of Yelvington is now situated, gave himself and was held at an examining trial to await the action of the grand jury at Hartford. Jo Daveiss, hearing of the trouble Smothers was in, sent him this message from Frankfort: "Don't ruin yourself hiring lawyers. I will be with you on the day of the trial. This was one of the most famous trials in the early history of Kentucky. John Daveiss. the father of Mrs. Roberts, prosecuted Smothers and his brother, Jo. Daveiss defended him. Smothers was acquitted and invited Jo Daveiss to go home with him to his cabin on the Yellow Banks. The invitation was accepted. Daveiss liked the country and while here bought a tract of land, and he afterward came here and lived upon it. He called his farm here Cornland. It is where the handsome homes of Messrs R. and M. V. Monarch are now situated, just east of this city and barely outside of its limits.

While Jo Daveiss lived here his brother John, who was the younger by four years, came here and lived with him and with James Meade and Nimrod Moore, two young men of this section, studied law under him.

#### Marriage of John Daveiss.

John married here and married under these circumstances: Miss Sallie Duncan, a pretty Nelson county girl, was here on a visit to her uncle, Ben Duncan, the Squire Ben Duncan who a few years before had held the examining trial of Bill Smothers. She and John Daveiss met at one of the neighborhood gatherings and were married while she was here on this visit to her uncle. After a few years they settled on. the place where Pate station is now situated, where, as before stated. Mrs. Roberts was born. John Daveiss in a few years moved into what is now the Yelvington neighborhood and after a while bought the place that is now known as the Lynch Gray farm, on the Leitchfield road near the city, but his wife died about that time and he did not build there as he

had intended. His wife died July 6, 1849, of cholera, and three years later, Nov. 17, 1852, he died of cancer at the home of his son-in-law, Dr. Stephen Ogden, who lived on the site now occupied by the large hardware store of W. A. Guenther Sons, on Frederica street just above the Planters house.

Mrs. Roberts married Dr. John Roberts, of Owensboro, Nov. 3, 1842, and came as a blushing bride at the age of seventeen years to the brick house on Third street, just above the corner of Daviess street and has lived there ever since. She says she has not been out of that house in all as much as three weeks in the fifty-nine years that she has lived there.

This house is one of the ancient landmarks of Owensboro. It was an old house in 1842 when she married and moved into it and is the oldest house of any kind in Owensboro, but one, that being the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wandling, situated on the northeast corner of Allen and Water streets.

#### An Ancient Landmark.

The house in which Mrs. Roberts lives and which she yet owns is not only well preserved, but it has the same plastering on the walls that was on it when she moved into it as a young bride, the same door knobs and the same locks.

She has many heirlooms of an interesting nature, two of which are old rifles, one of them having been in her family for 123 years, says, having been brought to Kentucky from Virginia, by her aunt, a Mrs. Hess, who from her cabin at Harrod's station killed an Indian chief with it and then blew a conch shell to summon the men of the place, who drove a pack of Indians away. The other rifle is almost as old, and, she says, was used in the campaign against the Indians in the Wabash country.

She has a bureau which was the property of her ancle, Jo Daveiss, and his wife was used by them in their house here at Cornland and left them to her father when they removed from here in 1809.

She has the candlestick which was used by her father, and a pair of saddle pockets which her husband, Dr. Roberts, used while practicing medicine. They are quaint looking and altogether unlike the neat and handsome medicine cases used by physicians now.

#### The Daveiss Family.

Joseph Hamilton Daveiss married Miss Anne Marshall, a sister to Chief Justice John Marshall, of the United States supreme court A few years after his death she married Col. Pollard and made several visits to this county to visit John Daveiss and his family.

Mrs. Roberts says she remembers her aunt Anne well and among other things she remembers her as being cross-eyed and homely, but very bright.

There were thirteen children born to John Daveiss and his wife, but only six of them lived to be grown. One brother, Joseph Hamilton, named for his uncle, was a dry goods clerk in the store of Phil Thompson, in Owensboro. and came to be called "Judge" because of his knowledge of human nature and the readiness with which he could sell goods. He died years ago. Her remaining brother, John J. Daveiss, is now seventy-five years old and lives at Huntingburg, Ind.

Her three sisters married Dr. Stephen Ogden and Nimrod Allen, of this county, and Benjamin Blincoe, of Lewisport, Hancock county. They are long since dead, but have many descendants here and in Hancock county.

#### Early Recollections.



Mrs. Roberts talks entertainingly about the early history of Owensboro. She has known the town all her life and says when she married and moved here there were only a few hundred people living here, that there was not a church building here and the small congregations of the different religious organizations worshipped in the court house

She knew every inhabitant of the town and said it was a delightfully neighborly and pleasant place to live.

She was carefully educated and speaks endearingly of some of her old schoolmasters, one of whom was G. W. Slaughter, the father of Mr. J. W. Slaughter, now a member of the city council and a well-known business man.

Jo Daveiss.

This county was named for Joseph Hamilton Daveiss, though its name by an error in enrolling the bill creating the county, is spelled Daviess. Like deviations have occurred in the spelling of the names of other counties, such as Green, after Gen. Greene; Calloway, from Col. Callaway and Menifee from Richard H. Menefee, and Breckenridge, from the well-known Breckinridge family.

There is a Jo Daviess county in Illinois and a Daviess county in Indiana named for him.

Jo Daveiss was United States district attorney for Kentucky in 1806, when the Burr conspiracy to create an empire of Texas and Mexico was first talked of. Daveiss got wind of it and had Burr indicted at Frankfort for treason, but the case was dismissed for want of proof and Burr went on to New Orleans, where he was arrested, taken by land to Richmond, tried and again acquitted. A letter written, by Daveiss to Gov. Chas. Scott at Frankfort concerning the Burr conspiracy is in possession of a gentleman in this city.

It is a part of human nature to feel proud of heroic ancestry, and the race is better for such a spirit. It stimulates greater and a more exalted effort and kindles whatever of fire there is within us. So it is a matter of much pride to this good woman to reflect that in her veins and in those of her childre'n courses a stream of Daveiss blood.

Jo Daveiss was a man of heroic mold. When but a lad he volunteered in the command of Major Adair, to guard the transportation of provisions to the forts in Northern Ohio. He was famous as a lawyer and ranked with Isham Talbott, Felix Grundy, William Garrard, Jesse Bledsoe, John Pope, William B. Blackburn, and Thomas Dye Owings, whose names adorn a bright page in the judicial and forensic history of the state, and the people of this county take a just pride in the reflection that bears his name.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 2 January 1916, p.6:**

### Interesting Local History

Kinspeople of Col. Joe Hamilton Daveiss, who Fell at the Battle of Tippecanoe,  
Who Have Resided in Daviess County,

(By Lucius P. Little)

John Daveiss and three others of the name were brothers of Col Daveiss, who died without lineal descendants. John Daveiss, one of his brothers, lived and died a resident of that territory now embraced in Daveiss county. Col. Joe Daveiss in 1803, was married to Miss Ann Marshall,

youngest daughter of Col. Thomas Marshall and youngest sister of Chief Justice John Marshall. His brother, John Daveiss, married Sally Duncan, daughter of a settler.

Before his death Col. Daveiss had made his will, giving to his wife such part of his estate as she needed or desired and to such of his nephews as were named for him, the remainder of his estate, or to such of them as were approved by his representatives.

Gen. John Daveiss was a lawyer and engaged in the practice of the profession. He was also a minister of the gospel and exercised his gifts in that respect to subdue his outbreking friends and neighbors. From 1831 to 1833 he served in the office of sheriff of Daviess county. He had been prominent in the organization of the new county and it was owing to the power with which he was vested, that the county site was located as it has continued to this day.

Gen. John Daveiss and his wife were afterwards buried in the graveyard situated on the Henderson road near the west border of the village generally called Yellow Banks, but which had been established by act of the legislature in 1817 and named Owensboro in honor of Gen. Abraham Owen, who, like Daveiss, had sacrificed his life in defense of his country on the bloody field of Tippecanoe.

John Daveiss acquired prominence and notoriety as general of militia. Joseph Hamilton Daveiss (son of Gen. John Daveiss) was well educated, and became a lawyer, and received a considerable part of his uncle's estate, by the terms of his will. He made an unfortunate marriage, however, and as result contracted habits of dissipation that soon ended in his death.

Another son of John Daviess was named John J. Daviess, married Sally Coleman, and two children were born of this marriage; Coleman died early and Roberta is still living.

John J. Daviess was always known among his brethren as a bright Free Mason. A Masonic lodge has existed in Daviess county for many years, known as John J. Daviess, F. A. M.

The following daughters were born to Gen. John Daveiss (brother of Col Daveiss) towit: Julia Daveiss, Sally Daveiss, Hariotte Daveiss, Rose Daveiss. Julia Daveiss became the wife of Dr. John Jett.

Sallie Ann Daveiss became the wife of Dr. Stephen F. Ogden.

Dr. Ogden was the son of Rev. Ben Ogden, the pioneer circuit rider in Kentucky. He successfully practiced medicine for many years, and in the latter part of his life was appointed and served as postmaster at Owensboro. Four sons were born to the Ogdens:

John Daveiss Ogden was a druggist and miller. He married Miss Hattie Thompson and they removed to Bahia, in Brazil. Afterwards he returned the United States, but after remaining a few years he returned to Brazil and there remained till his death. He was a long and active Free Mason. His death occurred in 1894.

Ben H. Ogden married a kinswoman, Sallie J. Roberts. He engaged in the milling business, to which he was very attentive. He died in 1885.

Joseph Ogden, son of Dr. Ogden, died at fifty years, without ever having been married.

Marcus L. Ogden was born in 1835 near Princeton, Ky. Attended school until sixteen. Became deputy postmaster and continued five years. He clerked in his brother's drug store during that time and was also bookkeeper for two years. In 1859 he was elected county clerk and held the office until 1862. He was appointed circuit clerk by Judge Williams and held till 1868. August 23, 1866, he married Miss Janet Robertson, a native of Scotland. Two children were born to them: Sallie H. who intermarried with Prof. W. A. Hester, and Marcus L. Ogden, Jr. Mr. Ogden and his wife were members of the Methodist church. He was disabled much of his life by rheumatism. The Ogden family came from England in 1660 and settled in East New Jersey and Maryland. Sir John

Ogden, one of the family was granted a coat of arms by Charles the Second. On the coat of arms was engraved "For service rendered my father;" meaning Charles the First.

Dr. Henry B. Roberts was born in Frankfort in 1806. He studied medicine with Dr. John Roberts, his father, and Dr. Francis Lloyd, his brother-in-law. He came to Owensboro in 1837 and began the practice of medicine with his brother, Dr. John Roberts, which connection lasted till the death of the latter in 1852. On 1842 he married Miss Harriotte Daveiss, and to them several children were born. Henry Fred Roberts, as he approached majority, was exceeding bright, and seemed to have before him a promising career. His health, however, gave way and his mind became impaired and his career was cut short by death.

Miss Rosa Roberts married Judge Jasper B. Karn, one of the prominent lawyers of Owensboro.

Judge Karn began the study of law. Having received license as a lawyer, from Hon. Martin Cofer in 1870, he began regular practice in 1872. In 1876 he was unanimously elected city attorney of the council by the council, and afterwards was chosen to fill a vacancy in the same office. In 1882 he was elected city judge and from 1878 to 1880 he practiced in partnership with the well known lawyer, G. W. Ray. By his marriage he has two sons and a daughter. Rosa is the wife of Clarence Franks. The names of his sons are Robert and Frederick.

Lucy L. Roberts, a daughter of Dr. Robert's, is the wife of Thomas Blincoe.

Lizzie Weir Roberts is the wife of W. H. Burnette.

Miss Rose Daveiss, daughter of Gen. John Daveiss, was married to Nimrod Allen, for a long time business partner of her brother. John F. Daveiss, in Owensboro. Three sons were born of the marriage: Randolph Allen, Dr. Nimrod Allen and John Allen (who was killed years ago by night marauders at the residence of his uncle in this county.)



Early Settlers Cemetery, West Ninth Street,  
Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, 21 August 2023