

# Greenwood Cemetery

1821 Leitchfield Road  
Owensboro, Kentucky



*By  
Jerry Long*

The year 2006 was the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro. Greenwood Cemetery was the burial ground for the African-American community in Owensboro for seventy years. After burials ceased there about 1976 the cemetery fell into disrepair and became unrecognizable as a memorial. The commendable and persistent efforts since 1996 of the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, in particularly Wesley Acton and Emily Holloway, have restored the cemetery to a place of honor.

During the 1980's I made several attempts to make a transcription of the gravestones at Greenwood Cemetery. The cemetery at the time was a jungle of growth and trash. I could only locate a few gravestones. In 1996 through the efforts of Wesley Acton and Emily Holloway Greenwood Cemetery was reclaimed and cleaned. I then copied all of the gravestones in the cemetery (326 individuals) and began to comb various records (death certificates, newspaper obituaries, funeral home records, etc.) to document other burials there.

In 2006 I published the book, Greenwood Cemetery: 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications). The volume sought to commemorate the cemetery and the many that were buried there.

The first part of the volume presented articles, documents and notes on the history of Greenwood Cemetery and its restoration in the last decade. The second part of the volume displayed a listing of the monuments in the cemetery, veterans buried there, and a database of burials at the cemetery. No records of burials at the cemetery are known to exist. Utilizing a listing of the gravestones in the cemetery, death certificates for Daviess County (1911-1965), obituaries from the Owensboro newspapers and other sources a database of burials has been created. When I began my research on burials at Greenwood Cemetery it was believed that about 600 were buried there. The database of burials at the cemetery when the book was published included 2,046 individuals that are documented to have been buried at Greenwood. In June 2021 the current total of documented burials is up to 2,383. This is not comprehensive but is far more complete record than what existed previously and hopefully in the future it will continue to be added to as others are identified. In the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Public Library (Owensboro, KY) supplemental volumes with the documentation that prove each of these burials can be found – there are currently 12 volumes in the series, library catalog # KR 976.9864 Long; I am working on the 13<sup>th</sup>).

If you know of others that are buried at Greenwood please contact Jerry Long in the Kentucky Room or members of the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee.

The book, Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY, contains 188 pages and is available from the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee. Contact Wesley Acton (270-275-4511) to acquire a copy of the book. Softbound copies of the book are \$27.00 or hardbound copies \$37.00, add \$3.00 for mail orders. All proceeds go to the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee and will be utilized for the future welfare of the cemetery. Copies of the book have been donated to

the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, Church of Latter Day Saints Library in Salt Lake City, UT, Kentucky Historical Society Library in Frankfort, KY, Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN, Willard Library in Evansville, IN and the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro, KY.

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In 1906 a group of African American men organized and laid plans for the development of a cemetery for the local Black community in Owensboro. Their plans were actualized with the incorporation of the Greenwood Cemetery Association and the purchase of land for the cemetery in the first months of 1906. The Owensboro Messenger newspaper of 31 January 1906 (p5) published the following notice:

Bought For Negro Cemetery – C. A. Payne, Jr., sold yesterday the tract of land on the Leitchfield road near the Chautauqua park, belonging to Joe Losser, of Paducah, to E. A. Watts & Co. The ground will be converted into a Negro cemetery. About \$3,000 will be spent, improving the grounds and putting it in shape.

On 19 February 1906 the Greenwood Cemetery Association was incorporated (Daviess County Corporation Record Book 2, pp183-184). The 20 February 1906 issue of the Owensboro Inquirer (p1) carried the following announcement about the new corporation:

Greenwood Cemetery Association Formed to Provide Burial Ground for Colored People – Articles have been filed in the county clerk's office incorporating the Greenwood Cemetery association. The association is composed of the following local colored citizens, with the shares held by each: E. A. Watts 40, P. G. Walker 3, Peyton Wright 1, Lee Bradshaw 3, J. A. Morton 1, S. L. Baker [sic] 1, Marshall Davis 1, Joe Weaver 3, T. N. Richardson, 1, Thos. P. Fisher 1, F. E. Barnett 2, T. N. Loving 1, R. A. Saulsberry 1, D. C. Foston 1, Robert Roan 3, A. R. Helm 1, James Jewell 1, W. F. Griffith 1, William C. Orton 1, R. L. Varian 1, R. G. [sic] White 1, J. W. Gilbert 1, G. W. Berry 3, Frank Claybrooks 1, William Lewis 1, O. G. K. Barrett 4, W. H. Edwards 1, George W. Turner 1, A. O. Guthrie 1, William Gaines [sic] 4, A. D. Hurt 4, W. H. Pope 4, J. A. Agnew 3, D. A. Valentine 1 [note – 3 of the above were misspelled and appear correctly in the Articles of Incorporation as S. L. Barker, R. F. White & William Gines].

The corporation is to commence at once and continue for 50 years. Its purpose is to establish and maintain a cemetery for colored people. The capital stock is \$4,000 divided into 160 shares of \$25 each. The indebtedness shall not exceed \$3,000.

The deed whereby the Greenwood Cemetery Association purchased 16 acres for the new cemetery was made on 20 Feb 1906 (Daviess County Deed Book 80, pp571-572). The land was purchased from E. W. Moore for the price of \$3,000. A lien on the land was released on 19 Nov 1906 with the payment of the full purchase price. Thirty-four Black citizens, all residents of Owensboro at the time of the incorporation, purchased the initial

stock in the corporation. They held 98 shares of the total 160. They paid \$25.00 per share. Edward Arnold Watts, a lawyer, had 40 shares, 4 others had 4 shares each, 5 had 3 shares each, 1 had 2 shares and 22 others had 1 share. Watts, Owensboro's only Black attorney, was president of the corporation. All but four of the stockholders were found listed in either the 1905-06 or 1907 City Directories of Owensboro, one other was a landowner in the county and the other three appeared in other local records of the period. It is not known who were the purchasers of the remaining shares. The whereabouts of the original books that listed all of the stockholders cannot be found. It was reported that the United Brothers of Friendship, a Black fraternal and charitable organization, and the Mount Pisgah Lodge 20, F & AM, also owned stock in the corporation (see "Efforts under way to restore cemetery", Messenger-Inquirer, 11 July 1982, p1A).

Of the 34 original stockholders in the Greenwood Cemetery Association at least 10 were found to be buried at Greenwood Cemetery and 7 others were buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro. The stockholders included a lawyer, two doctors, a dentist, a minister, three teachers, an undertaker, a barber and other professionals. In a letter by the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee to the Owensboro community in 1996 it was written that the formation of the Greenwood Cemetery Association in 1906

was a courageous, bold undertaking at that time! Especially, in view of the fact that many of these men had limited financial or tangible resources and few prospects. What they did have was a sense of responsibility and pride in themselves and their community. Under the leadership of E. A. Watts, a lawyer in the group, their dreams developed into sound workable plans. Unfortunately, the life of the corporation and the lives of the dreamers were limited, and the efforts of their successors were ineffective in the years that followed.

Greenwood Cemetery was the burial ground for the majority of the African American citizens in Owensboro for several generations. After its establishment it was extensively used for the next 70 years. The oldest monuments found in the cemetery are for Kittie Ann Jones (born 9 Aug 1853 died 13 Jan 1905) and Benedict A. Hayden (born 12 Feb 1828 died 13 Aug 1905). These pre-date the corporation date for the cemetery. It is possible they were moved and reburied at Greenwood after the purchase of the cemetery property in February 1906. The death of Kitty Jones was noted in a Pettit community column in the Owensboro Messenger of 19 January 1905 and it stated burial was at Bethlehem (Baptist Church cemetery near Utica). The last documented burial at Greenwood is for Mattie Patton, who was buried there on 16 Feb 1976 (Messenger-Inquirer, 15 Feb 1976, p2D).

In its early years the cemetery had a caretaker living on the grounds. Marshall Davis (1878-1918), one of the original stockholders was an early caretaker (Owensboro City Directory, 1916, p147). The Owensboro Messenger on 9 Nov 1937 reported that a small house in the cemetery burned to the ground due to a defective flue, "the house was occupied by Samuel Young, caretaker of the cemetery". The cemetery had been provided for by the efforts of the Greenwood Cemetery Association and also the United Brothers of Friendship. Both of these groups eventually disbanded. The Greenwood Cemetery Association was dissolved in 1957 ("Forgotten local cemeteries lost in grass", Messenger-Inquirer, 20 April 1988, p1A). The articles of incorporation for the Association had

stipulated that the corporation would continue for 50 years. The United Brothers of Friendship, a Black fraternal and charitable organization maintained the graveyard from 1921 until it disbanded in 1972; in its early years the group had about 80 members and by 1982 only two former members were living. William Norris, the group's secretary-treasurer stated in a 1979 newspaper article "We ran out of money, we ran out of room to bury anyone" (Messenger-Inquirer, 25 May 1979, p1C). By 1996 Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, had become so unrecognizable that it ceased to be listed in the annual City Directories as it had been since its inception.

No one was maintaining Greenwood Cemetery by 1972 and it soon deteriorated into a wilderness and junkyard and burials ceased. The owners were the original stockholders but they had long since all died and most of their unknown heirs were no longer residents of Owensboro. Since the owners were unknown no one was responsible for its care and upkeep. City Commissioner R. L. McFarland in explaining the deterioration of the cemetery in 1988 said it is a "question of ownership. It hasn't been resolved who owns the property, and people are reluctant to do anything until that is settled... Different people have tried to clean up Greenwood before, but the effort stalled when no one could determine who actually owns the site." The cemetery grounds became a disgrace to all of Owensboro. Several unsuccessful attempts in the following years were made to cleanup the cemetery. The Owensboro newspapers publicized efforts in 1979, 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992 (Messenger-Inquirer: "Under the overgrowth – Owensboro black history hidden in Greenwood Cemetery", 25 May 1979 p1C; "Efforts under way to restore cemetery", 11 July 1982 p1A; "Inmate does his time by cleaning cemetery", 4 Aug 1984 p1A; "Forgotten local cemeteries lost in grass", 20 April 1988 p1A; "Volunteers start clearing overgrown cemetery", 18 Oct 1992 p9C).

With the formation in August 1996 of the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, under the leadership of Wesley Acton and Emily Holloway, great progress was made in restoring and caring for the cemetery. In the next couple of years the cemetery was reclaimed with more than 200 volunteers cleaning up the grounds and repairing gravestones (see Messenger-Inquirer - "Restoration: Group planning to clean Greenwood Cemetery this fall", 8 Aug 1996 p1B; "Cemetery workers uncover history: Group cleaning up abandoned site", 13 Oct 1996 p1C; "Cemetery repairs get 'gee whiz' reviews", 12 Aug 1997 p1A; "Greenwood Cemetery restoration continuing: Old tombstones to be repaired during Saturday seminar", 16 Sep 1998, p1C; "Volunteers fix history, tombstones", 20 Sep 1988 p1A; "Cemetery restoration finished", 16 Nov 1998 p1A). To handle donations and manage upkeep the restoration committee was incorporated as the Greenwood Restoration Association on 24 June 1999 (Daviess County Corporation Book 115, p677).

The preservation of Greenwood Cemetery was further ensured in May 2001 when the Daviess County Fiscal Court purchased the remaining 11 acres of the cemetery, assumed maintenance and developed plans for the perpetual care of the burial grounds. Two acres had been sold in 1987 to the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the right of way for the new East Parrish Avenue (Daviess County Deed Book 560, pp545-548). The remaining ground was sold at an auction on 21 May 2001 as the result of a petition filed in the Daviess County Circuit Court by two heirs of the Greenwood stockholders requesting a sale of the property. The County purchased the cemetery with a bid of \$25,000 (Messenger-Inquirer, "County buys Greenwood Cemetery: Unused section at Parrish Avenue to be sold for

development, judge-executive says”, 22 May 2001 p1B; Daviess County Deed Book 738, pp568-573). Judge Reid Haire said “the idea is for the county to sell five unused acres fronting busy Parrish Avenue and use that money to create a trust fund to ensure that the six acres of graves are maintained forever.” A survey and plat of the cemetery was recorded on 16 January 2002; it divided the property into two sections 4.739 acres that contained the actual cemetery and 7.047 acres that was east of the cemetery and along East Parrish Avenue (Daviess County Plat Book 31, p19).

It is not known exactly how many people were buried at Greenwood Cemetery. No known records of burials were kept. Newspaper articles about the cemetery from 1998 until 2005 quoted the estimate of 600 burials, previously articles had simply said hundreds were buried there.

Jerry Long, of the Kentucky Room staff at the Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro, wrote a letter on 24 Feb 2005 to Keith Lawrence, writer for the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, informing him that based on his study of the Daviess County death certificates, a partial listing of monuments at the cemetery and additions from Owensboro obituaries over 2,000 were buried at Greenwood Cemetery. A few weeks afterwards Mr. Lawrence published the findings in the newspaper (“Greenwood Cemetery is more crowded than thought: Graveyard likely has more than 2,000 graves”, 3 March 2005 p1C). The Library had obtained microfilm copies of all of Kentucky’s death certificates that commence in 1911 and are at least 50 years old. All of these records were gone through and the certificate numbers for all deaths in Daviess County that reported the place of burial as Greenwood Cemetery were listed. This was done in hopes that the existence of the list would lead to a more ambitious project of compiling a record of burials at the cemetery. The Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee later that year decided to have copies of all the death certificates made using the list of years and numbers that had been prepared. Through the newspaper they asked for volunteers to look up and copy the death certificates from the microfilms at the Owensboro Library (“Cemetery project in the works: Volunteers needed to work on list of burials at Greenwood”, 28 Dec 2005 p1B). The turnout of volunteers was so great that the copying of all of the 1,800 certificates for the years of 1911-1955 was accomplished over a 6-week period in Dec 2005 & Jan 2006. Those who volunteered their time were: Wesley Acton, Sadie Barrass, Sue Berry, Jewell Brown, Mike Crabtree, Bethany Davis, Debbie Davis, Avon Dawdy, Adrian Frazier, Pat Griffith, Shelia Heflin, Bill Johnson, Nell Jordan, Jerry Long, Helen McKeown, Sr. Sharon Sullivan, and Marilee Thompson.

The death certificates indicating burial at Greenwood Cemetery were next sorted alphabetically. Bethany Davis, Debbie Davis, Bill Johnson, Jerry Long and Britney McCarter entered into a database an abstract of all of the death certificates. Jerry Long subsequently added to the database others that were identified as being buried at Greenwood from three other primary sources – listing of monuments found in the cemetery, obituaries from the Owensboro newspaper that had been randomly listed by the Library’s Kentucky Room staff, and an inventory of Veterans’ graves for Daviess County compiled by the W. P. A. between 1939-1941. With these additions the database of burials at Greenwood Cemetery now has 2,046 individuals. This list is not complete but

is a far more complete record than what had existed. There possibly may have been as many as 3,000 burials at Greenwood. This estimate is based on the fact that for the years that death certificates were available there was an average of 40 burials at Greenwood a year and there are at least 26 years prior to 1911 and after 1955 that no death certificates are currently available. The number of Greenwood burials would also be added to when one considers the following:

- many individuals in earlier years had no death certificates and many that did do not identify the place of burial
- others would have died outside of Daviess County and been returned here for burial
- the Owensboro Messenger newspaper for the years of 1905-1919 have been comprehensively abstracted for deaths & burials but the subsequent years have not been; for this project several were added to the database by searching for specific individuals and probably more could be found by researching various family groups or obituary columns for specific periods

In the future the Greenwood burial database will hopefully be added to as others are documented by additional sources, such as death certificates, obituaries or personal knowledge of relatives.

Jerry Long visited Greenwood Cemetery on Feb 2 & 6, 2006 and transcribed data from all of the monuments. In all 326 individuals were found to have monuments, including 151 that were not located in a prior listing of the cemetery. The late Albert J. Davis had attempted to copy the cemetery in the 1980's when the cemetery was still thick with weeds, vines and junk and many of the markers he could not find. A comparison was made between the two listings and where there were any differences a reevaluation of the inscription and a study of other sources was done to judge what was correct.

Sixty-two military monuments were found in the cemetery. These included two Civil War soldiers, Richard Hardesty (1846-1923) and George W. Robertson (1849-1919). Two other Civil War vets were identified as being buried here through the W. P. A.'s Inventory of Veterans' graves - Henry Michion Taylor (1833- 1905/1910) and Robert Woodard (1839-1917). At least 48 veterans of World War I are buried in Greenwood and 14 World War II soldiers. Among those buried at Greenwood Cemetery are a doctor - Dr. Richard Moreland (1863-1922); ministers - George Woodley Alcorn (1877-1928), Stephen Anderson (1894-1961), Aron L. Duerson (1867-1944), Burtus Flowers (1882-1942), George Samuel Green (1876-1947), Thomas Hines (1869-1944), Scott A. Irvine (1876-1926), Thomas James (c1870-1934) and Scipio Peter Locke (1858-1937); teachers - Bates H. Caldwell (1901-1934), Valeria G. Springfield Caldwell (1899-1935), Mattie T. Jackson Davis (1898-1950) and Ella M. Hawes Jackson (1887-1937); and John Abner Agnew (1868-1934), who was Owensboro's leading Black undertaker for 30 years. The Owensboro Messenger of 23 July 1925 (p5) records that Felix Wallace (c1881-1925) formerly of Owensboro died in St. Louis and was returned to Owensboro and buried at Greenwood Cemetery. He was then the owner and manager of the St. Louis Giants Negro baseball team. Wallace is mentioned in several books on Black Baseball players (see The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues by John Holway, Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001, pp74, 82 92-93, 98-99, 101, 114-115, 126, 129 & 155 and The Negro Leagues Book by Dick Clark and Larry Lester, Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994).

# Greenwood Cemetery Association Stockholders

The following were original stockholders in the Greenwood Cemetery Association:

**Agnew, John Abner**, 3 shares. Born 15 Oct 1873 Huntington, WV; son of Thomas & Maria (Lane) Agnew. Died 14 March 1934 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1934 - #5881). Buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro (has a monument in section 1). Married Nannie Phillip Wheatley on 31 Dec 1907 in Owensboro. He had been educated for the profession of dentistry. He practiced this profession in Louisville several years and was reportedly the first Negro dentist in Kentucky. He was practicing this profession in Louisville at the time of the 1900 Federal Census. Not long after this he began to study embalming and quit the dental profession. The "Owensboro Messenger" issue of 25 October 1902 (p7) reported that J. A. Agnew, colored, of Louisville, will open by Nov 1<sup>st</sup> an undertaking establishment in Owensboro at Fourth & St. Ann Streets. The 1903-04 Owensboro City Directory shows John A. Agnew, undertaker, 200 W. 4<sup>th</sup>, residence the same. He is listed in the 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses of Owensboro. For over thirty years he was Owensboro's leading Black undertaker. His obituary stated he was "active in all civic affairs toward the advancement of his race."

**Barker, Samuel L.**, 1 share. Born 21 April 1878 Christian County, KY. Died 2 May 1971 Owensboro, KY. Buried Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro (has monument in section E). He married Callie Carr about 1902. Listed as a school teacher in the 1900, 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses of Owensboro. The 1907 Owensboro City Directory lists S. L. Barker, teacher, wife Callie, residence 820 W. 7<sup>th</sup>. He was a prominent educator for 50 years in the Owensboro City School system and taught at the Dunbar Elementary School, the Western Kentucky Industrial College and Western High School. He was principal of the latter school for 15 years (1934-1949).

**Barnett, Finess E.**, 2 shares. Born 15 April 1863 Ohio County, KY. Died 25 Feb 1950 Louisville, KY (death certificate 1950 - #5136). His death certificate lists his mother as Rosie. Buried Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro (has monument in section B). He married Mrs. Beatrice A. "Bee" (Fields) Smith in Daviess County on 23 Dec 1891. He is listed in the 1870 & 1880 censuses of Ohio County, KY and 1900, 1910 & 1920 censuses of Daviess County, KY. In the 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory listed as Finess Barnett, janitor, wife Beatrice, residence 724 Leitchfield Road. He is last found in the Owensboro Directories in 1948. His obituary states he was a carpenter and had lived in Owensboro 70 years.

**Barrett, Owen G. K.**, 4 shares. Born Aug 1850 KY. Died 16 Dec 1936 Chicago, IL. Married Isabelle L. Holmes about 1878. He is listed in the 1880, 1900 & 1910



censuses of Owensboro. In 1880 he was working as a tobacco packer, the 1882-83 Owensboro City Directory shows him as being the head waiter at the Planters' Hotel and in 1897 he was a foreman at the W. H. Clarke Tobacco Company. The 1900 census reports that he was a US gauger (an I.R.S. employee). The 1905-06 City Directory of Owensboro lists Owen Barrett, Internal Revenue storekeeper, wife Isabella, residence 600 Poplar. He is last found in the Owensboro Directories in 1916. He & his wife, Isabelle, were living in Chicago, IL at the time of the 1920 & 1930 Federal Censuses.

**Berry, George W.**, 3 shares. Born 12 June 1873 Allensville, Todd County, KY; son of George, Sr. & Mary Berry. Died 11 April 1939 Louisville, KY (death certificate 1939 - #10298). Buried at the Louisville Cemetery in Louisville. Married Florence Elizabeth Helm in Owensboro on 24 July 1901; she was one of the first six graduates of Owensboro's Western High School in 1897. At the time of the 1900 census of Owensboro he and his brother, Robert T., were partners in a tailor business and resided at 320 Main St. The 1907 Owensboro City Directory lists G. W. Berry, US storekeeper, residence 320 W. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The 1910 census of Owensboro lists his occupation as storekeeper & gauger for the Internal Revenue Service. He is last found in the Owensboro Directories in the 1911-12 edition. George W. & wife, Florence, were living in Louisville, KY at the time of the 1920 & 1930 censuses. In these censuses and on his death certificate his occupation was recorded as US Revenue gauger & storekeeper.

**Bradshaw, Lee**, 3 shares. Born March 1860 KY; son of Clora. Died 29 Oct 1940 Terre Haute, IN. Buried Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro (no monument found). Married Julia Lee in Daviess County, KY on 16 Sep 1882. He is listed in the 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses of Daviess County, KY. The 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory lists Lee Bradshaw, laborer, wife Julia, residence 512 Vine. The 1910 census reports his occupation as stationary engineer, the 1920 as flourmill engineer and 1930 as stationary engineer at an ice plant. The 1930 & 1933 Owensboro Directories record that he was an assistant engineer at the Owensboro Ice & Cold Storage Company. He was not found in any of the subsequent Owensboro Directories.

**Claybrook, Frank**, 1 share. Born 17 July 1878 Daviess County, KY; son of Edward & Julia Claybrook. Died 21 April 1912 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1912 - #9534). Buried Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro (has monument in section B). Listed as "Claybrook" on his gravestone and in his obituary but as "Claybrooks" on his death certificate & in the articles of incorporation for the Greenwood Cemetery Association. He married Fannie Spencer in Owensboro on 18 April 1904. He is listed in the 1880 & 1900 censuses of Owensboro. The Owensboro City Directory in 1905-06 lists Frank Claybrooks, waiter, beds at Rudd House. The 1911-12 Directory and his obituary record that he had been the head waiter at the Rudd House hotel for several years.

**Davis, Marshall**, 1 share. Born 25 June 1878 KY; son of Dangerfield & Louisa (Fields) Davis. Died 18 July 1918 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1918 - #17473). Buried Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro (no monument found). He married Nellie Bell McFarland in Owensboro on 16 June 1904, after her death he married Ida Bell Price in Owensboro on 13 Jan 1914. He is in the 1910 census of Owensboro; he was then employed as a tobacco stemmer. The Owensboro City Directory in 1907 lists Marshall Davis, teamster, wife Nellie B., residence 929 W. 8<sup>th</sup>. The 1916 Owensboro Directory shows that he was an employee of Greenwood Cemetery and resided on the Leitchfield Road.

**Edwards, William Henry**, 1 share. Born 10 Aug 1857 Owensboro, KY; son of Del Sawyer & Ellen McFarland. He had been a slave in the John H. McFarland family. Died 5 Oct 1960 Owensboro, KY at the age of 103. Buried Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro (has monument in section E). Married Mary / 'Mollie' Starks in Owensboro on 9 March 1882. He was found in the 1870, 1900, 1920 & 1930 censuses of Daviess County, KY. In the last three his occupation was given as janitor; in 1900 he was a janitor at the I.O.O.F. Lodge and in 1920 & 1930 at a church. He was janitor at the Settle Memorial Methodist Church for 50 years until retiring about 1925. The 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory shows W. H. Edwards, wife Mollie, grocer at 1621 Sweeney, residence 927 Lewis (he sold groceries in partnership with his sons, Burrell E. & T. Essex). His daughter Miss Emma Edwards served as principal of the Dunbar School in Owensboro and administrator of the Mary Harding Home. See "Black Kentucky Pioneers: William Henry Edwards, 1857-1960", (by Jerry Long, Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records, Vol. 7, Society of Kentucky Pioneers, Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1988), pp101-104)

**Fisher, Thomas Pomp**, 1 share. Born 24 Dec 1858 Henderson, KY; son of Lee & Amelia (Cosby) Fisher. Died 28 Jan 1950 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1950 - #2074). Buried Greenwood Cemetery (he & his wife were later moved to Elmwood Cemetery). He married Dicie Piper in Daviess County, KY on 31 Dec 1891. He was listed in the 1870 census of Henderson County, KY and the 1900, 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses of Owensboro. In 1900 he was working as a farmer, in 1910 as a grocery driver, 1920 as a janitor at City Hall & 1930 as a janitor at a church. The 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory shows T. P. Fisher, driver, wife Dicie, residence 631 Hathaway. His obituary states that for many years he was in the employ of the Birk-Thornton grocery, and later custodian of the Messenger newspaper building, City Hall, and the Walnut Street Baptist Church.

**Foston, Donald Carlos**, 1 share. Born 12 Oct 1872 KY; son of Dave & Elsa Bell (Wells) Foston. Died 10 Jan 1933 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1933 - #705). Buried Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro (has monument in section B). Married Mary Belle Smith on 2 June 1892 in Daviess County, KY. He was found in the 1900, 1910 & 1920 censuses of Owensboro. The 1907 Owensboro City Directory lists C. D. Foston, laborer, wife M. B., residence 821 W. 5<sup>th</sup>. The 1920 census gave his occupation as janitor at a flour mill. His obituary stated that for a number of years he had been a porter for Thomas Bader, who operated a grocery.

**Gilbert, J. William**, 1 share. Born about 1865 Missouri. Married first Lydia about 1892 and second Mrs. Edith Moore on 7 May 1908 in Owensboro, KY. His wife, Lydia, is listed in the 1900 census of Owensboro but he was not found. The 1903-04 Owensboro City Directory shows William Gilbert, wife Lydia, laborer, residence 1305 Frederica. William & Edith are listed in the 1910 census of Owensboro. He was then working as a laborer at a department store. He could not be found in subsequent Daviess County records.

**Gines, William**, 4 shares. Born about 1870 KY; son of William & Lucy Gines. Died 2 Aug 1920 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1920 - #19962). Buried Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro (no monument found). Listed in the 1900 & 1910 Daviess County, KY censuses; they report that he was working as a day laborer & farm laborer and was single. The 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory lists William Gines, laborer, residence 1502 Sweeney. On his death certificate it was reported that he was a laborer and was single.

**Griffith, William Frederick**, 1 share. Born 22 Nov 1865 Daviess County, KY; son of Peter & Emma Griffith (see Daviess County Marriage Book 41, p7). Died 12 March 1928 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1928 - #5958). Buried Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro (no monument found). Married Mattie Jackson on 2 Jan 1890 in Daviess County, KY and after her death in 1919 he married Sallie Couch on 23 Dec 1920 in Owensboro. Listed in the 1900 & 1910 censuses of Daviess County, KY; in the former his occupation was recorded as stove repairer and in the latter as repairman. The 1907 Owensboro City Directory lists William Griffith, stove repairer, wife Mattie, residence 1515 Moseley. His obituary states that for the last 30 years he had been engaged as a stove repair and setup man for the Guenther Hardware Company.

**Guthrie, Alfred O.**, 1 share. Born May 1872 Ohio. Died after 1930. Married Susan Rebecca about 1896. "A. O. Guthrie, school teacher", was first found in the Owensboro City Directories in the 1897-98 edition. He is enumerated in the 1900, 1910 & 1920 censuses of Owensboro. He was a teacher and school principal. In 1900-1904 he was principal at the Eastern School and principal of Western High School from about 1905 to about 1922. The 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory lists A. O. Guthrie, teacher, wife Rebecca, residence 602 Hathaway. He last appears in the Owensboro Directories in 1922. He and his wife were living in Kansas City, MO at the time of the 1930 Federal Census; he was then working as an Insurance Company agent.

**Helm, Alfred Ross**, 1 share. Born 9 Sep 1876 Owensboro, KY; son of Henry Clay Helm & Ann D. Smith. Died 22 Jan 1923 Indianapolis, IN. Buried Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro (no monument found). He and his brother, Jerome Benjamin, & sister, Florence Helm, were among six that were in the first graduating class of Owensboro's Western High School in 1897. His father for many years was a barber in Owensboro (see 1870 & 1900 censuses of Owensboro). The 1897-98 through

the 1907 Owensboro City Directories list Alfred R. Helm, barber, residence 812 W. 4<sup>th</sup>. He is listed as a barber and single in the censuses of Owensboro in 1900, Geary County, Kansas in 1910, and Indianapolis, Indiana in 1920. When he registered in 1918 for the World War I draft he was residing in Indianapolis and was employed as a barber.

**Hurt, Rev. A. D.**, 4 shares. He appears to have located in Owensboro shortly before the incorporation of Greenwood Cemetery in 1906 and moved elsewhere during 1909-1910. He was not listed there previously in the City Directories or in the 1900 census. He is listed in the 1907 & 1909 Owensboro Directories. The latter records Rev. A. D. Hurt, pastor of Fourth Street Baptist Church, wife Frank, residence 817 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. He does not appear in subsequent directories or censuses of Owensboro.

**Jewell, James J.**, 1 share. Born May 1855 Utica, Daviess County, KY; son of George & Patsy Jewell (see Daviess County Marriage Book 32, p48). Died 27 March 1934 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1934 - #5880). Buried Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro (no monument found; his wife, Julia J., has a monument in section B). Married Julia J. Estes on 3 July 1885 in Daviess County, KY. His wife died in 1917 and he married Cordelia (Jefferson) McClaren in Owensboro on 8 Jan 1919. He is found in the Owensboro censuses of 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 & 1930. The 1882-83 Owensboro City Directory shows him working as a waiter at the Planters House hotel. The 1907 Owensboro Directory records James Jewell, porter, wife Julia, residence 730 Breckenridge. The Owensboro Directories from 1909 to 1925 report that he was employed as a porter & driver by Wiles Brothers. The 1920 census lists him as a janitor, and the 1930 census as a hotel porter. His obituary reported that he died at his home at 730 Breckenridge street and that for the last several years he had been janitor of the Owensboro City hospital and for many years had been in the employ of Wile Brothers clothing firm.

**Lewis, William**, 1 share. The 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory lists William C. Lewis (porter, wife Julia, residence 604 Maple) and William A. Lewis (laborer, wife Anna M., residence 608 Plum). It is not clear which of these was a shareholder in Greenwood Cemetery. In the 1900 Daviess County, KY census two William's are enumerated – William C. (born May 1869 KY, wife Julia, married 3 years, porter at Y.M.C.A.) and William (born Oct 1861 KY, single, laborer).

**Loving, Taylor M.**, 1 share. Born May 1873 KY; son of William & Florence Loving. Died 9 June 1946 Evansville, IN. Buried Oak Hill Cemetery in Evansville. He appears in the 1880 & 1900 censuses of Warrick County, IN. In 1900 he was working as a day laborer and living with his widowed father in the town of Newburgh. On 23 June 1904 he married Ethel B. Jackson in Owensboro. He is first found in the Owensboro City Directories in 1903-04; this volume shows Taylor Loving, porter for Abe Baer (who operated a saloon at 326 Frederica), residence 122 W. 4<sup>th</sup>. He is listed in the 1910 & 1920 censuses of Owensboro; in 1910 he was employed by a lunch wagon and 1920 he was a cook in a restaurant.

Wilma Jene Loving, a daughter of Taylor & Ethel, in 1915 was buried at Greenwood Cemetery. He last appears in the Owensboro Directories in 1922. He was living in Evansville, IN at the time of the 1930 census.

**Morton, James A., "Bud"**, 1 share. Born 26 Sep 1859 Hancock County, KY; son of James & Sallie A. (Newton) Morton. Died 20 Sep 1927 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1927 - #24828). Buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro (has a monument in section 1). Married Virginia Hazelwood about 1895. He is listed in the home of his parents in the 1870 & 1880 censuses of Hancock County, KY. He is first found in the Owensboro City Directories in the 1889-90 edition; he was then working as a porter at 211 E. Main. He is in the 1900, 1910 & 1920 censuses of Owensboro. The 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory shows J. A. Morton, teamster, wife Virgie, residence 48 Orchard. The 1910 & 1920 censuses indicate he was working for himself as a teamster operating a coal wagon. The 1926 Owensboro Directory has that James A. Morton, wife Virginia, was working at the Owensboro Ice & Cold Storage Company.

**Orton, William Claude**, 1 share. Born 2 June 1875 Hopkins County, KY; son of Thomas & Lucy Orton. Died after 1920. He was listed with his parents in the 1880 census of Hopkins County, KY. Married Emma Harriet Stockton about 1904. He was teaching in Erie, Pennsylvania at the time of the 1900 Federal Census; he was then single. About 1904-05 he moved to Owensboro, where he was an educator. He resided in Owensboro for only a few years from about 1904 until about 1907. He was the principal of Owensboro's Eastern School in 1905-07; his wife was a teacher at the same school. The 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory has William C. Orton, teacher, wife Emma H., residence 629 Hathaway. He is last listed in the Owensboro Directories in 1907. William C., wife Emma, & three children are enumerated in the 1910 census of Cynthiana, Harrison County, KY. He was then reported to be a principal of a city school. His wife died at Cynthiana in 1911 and was taken to Louisville, KY for burial. William Claude Orton registered for the World War I draft in 1918; he then was residing in Nicholasville, Jessamine County, KY and was a minister of the A. M. E. Church. He appears as an A. M. E. minister in the 1920 Census of Nicholasville. He could not be located in the 1930 Federal Census or in the Kentucky Death Index.

**Pope, William Henry**, 4 shares. Born 20 May 1855 Daviess County, KY; son of Louisa Jones. Died 11 May 1935 Hopkinsville, Christian County, KY (death certificate 1935 - #11535). Buried Cave Spring Cemetery in Hopkinsville. Married Juda Moorman on 18 March 1880 in Daviess County, KY. He & Juda are shown with their family in the 1880, 1900 & 1910 censuses of Daviess County, KY. In each of these he was farming and residing near Utica. In 1910 they were reported to be residing on Moorman Road. In the 1920 census his wife, Juda, & three sons are listed in the same area in Daviess County; they were residing on the Livermore Road (now Highway 431). His wife was listed as being divorced; she died in 1927 and was buried at Utica in Daviess County. William H. could not be identified in

the 1920 Federal Census. He appears to be the same William H. Pope that was residing in Hopkinsville, KY at the time of the 1930 census. He was employed as a gardener and had a wife, Elizabeth "Lizzie". His death certificate reports that he was born in Daviess County, KY and was buried in Hopkinsville.

**Richardson, Thomas N.**, 1 share. Born May 1875 Daviess County, KY. Died 2 March 1914 Christian County, KY (death certificate 1914 - #6474). He was son of Thomas R. Richardson (1836-1908) & Estelle Field (1848-1907). His grandmother, Annie (Richardson) Simmons had been a slave of George Richardson, who came from Virginia and settled in the Buford area of Ohio County, KY during the 1840's. Annie by her slave master had three children, including Thomas R. Richardson (see "Black Kentucky Pioneers: Pleasant Point Baptist Church Cemetery, Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, KY", by Jerry Long, Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records, Vol. 8, Society of Kentucky Pioneers, Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1987, p117). Thomas R. & his wife were listed in the 1870, 1880 & 1900 censuses of Daviess County, KY. Their son, Thomas N. Richardson, is listed in the 1880, 1900 & 1910 censuses of Daviess County. In 1880 he was living with his parents in the Pleasant Ridge neighborhood and in 1900 & 1910 he was residing in Owensboro with his wife, Hattie A. Field (they were married about 1899). The 1900 census reports his occupation as carpenter and in 1910 he was conducting a grocery. The 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory has T. N. Richardson, wife Hattie, operating general merchandise business, residence 814 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1911 he was operating a grocery at 808 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. He died at the Western State Hospital. His death certificate reported that he was a merchant and had been a patient at the hospital for 1 year & 8 months. He was returned to Owensboro for burial and was probably buried at Greenwood Cemetery, where his parents have a monument in section 1. Mrs. Hattie Richardson married Dr. Amos Cornelius, M.D., in Owensboro on 15 Feb 1918. They continued to reside at her home at 808 W. 5<sup>th</sup>. She died at the same residence in 1946 and was taken to Greenville in Muhlenberg County, KY for burial; she had been born in that county and her father, Larkin Field, a Civil War veteran, had operated a blacksmith shop in Greenville.

**Roan, Robert**, 3 shares. Born May 1853 King Williams County, VA; son of Henry & Eliza Roan. Died 2 Dec 1925 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1925 - #28747). He and his two wives were buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro (no monuments found). Married Leara "Lea" Simpson in Daviess County, KY on 29 May 1873 (on her death certificate her maiden name was reported to be "Sampson"). After his wife's death in 1915 he married America (Smith) Griffith on 11 May 1918 in Owensboro. The 1882-83 Owensboro City Directory reports that he was a porter for the McPherson & Drabelle Hardware Company. He is enumerated in the 1880, 1900, 1910 & 1920 censuses of Owensboro. In these his occupation was reported as tobacco hand, job work, school janitor & tobacco stemmer. The 1905-06 Owensboro City Directory lists Robert Rone, laborer, wife Leary, residence 608 Poplar.

**Saulsberry, Robert A.**, 1 share. Born June 1872 Daviess County, KY; son of Lewis Richard Saulsberry & Sally Norris, who were married in Owensboro in 1867. His father was born as a slave in Muhlenberg County, KY in 1842 and is named in the will of his owner, Thomas Salsbury in 1844 (see book, Searching For The Roots, Grafting The Branches: The Saulsbury Family of Kentucky A Black History of Roots Lost In Slavery, by Celeste Stanton Johnson, 1992, copy Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY). Robert A. died 17 Aug 1957 Louisville, KY. He married Bertha Ann Sandusky on 25 Jan 1893 in Owensboro. He is listed in the 1880, 1900 & 1910 censuses of Owensboro. The 1897-98 Owensboro City Directory reports that he was working as a tobacco worker. The 1907 Owensboro Directory has R. A. Saulsberry, insurance agent, wife Bertha, residence 613 Elm. In 1910 he was working as a packer at a tobacco factory. He last appears in the Owensboro Directories in the 1916 edition. By 1920 he had moved his family to Louisville, KY, where they are enumerated in the 1920 & 1930 censuses. In 1920 he was a laborer at a mill and in 1930 a hotel porter. He died in Louisville. He was probably returned to Owensboro and buried at the Greenwood Cemetery, where his wife, Bertha, & son Samuel were buried in 1940 & 1943.

**Turner, George W.**, 1 share. The 1899-1900 Owensboro City Directory lists George W. Turner, brick molder, residence 1207 Harriett Street (now West 7<sup>th</sup> street). The 1903-04 Owensboro Directory has George Turner, brick molder, residence 1211 Harriett Street. He could not be found in subsequent Owensboro Directories or in the 1900 or 1910 censuses of Daviess County. Nannie Turner, "widow of George", appears in the 1907 Owensboro Directory.

**Varian, Dr. Richard L.**, 1 share. Born Oct 1879 Owensboro, KY; son of Frank Varian & Mariah Jackson. Died between 1907-1909. His parents were married in Daviess County, KY on 10 Feb 1870. His father was born at New Orleans, LA about 1841 and died in Owensboro in Dec 1879; a former slave, his owner Colonel Justus Vairin moved to Daviess County in the 1850's from New Orleans bringing with him a large number of slaves (see "The Old River Road of Long Ago Recalled", Owensboro Messenger, 14 Jun 1931). Richard's mother died in 1932 and was buried at Owensboro's Elmwood Cemetery. He married Eva Wood on 23 March 1904 in Owensboro. He is listed in the 1880 & 1900 censuses of Owensboro. The 1903-04, 1905-06 & 1907 Owensboro City Directories list Dr. Richard L. Vairin, physician; the latter two show his wife as Eva. During this period he was one of four Negro doctors in Owensboro, the others were Richard Moreland, J. M. Peters & Perry G. Walker. The 1909 Directory has Eva Vairin, widow of Dr. R. L. In the same year Eva married Jasper Ross and at the time of the 1920 census they were residing in Chicago, IL.

**Valentine, David W.**, 1 share. Born 17 July 1860 KY; son of Morris Valentine & Gilkey Brown. Died 13 March 1931 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1931 - #6306). Buried Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro (no monument found). He married Emma Weaver on 28 Sep 1887 in Owensboro and second Ellen (Hartwell) Wilhoite on 17 July 1907 in Owensboro. In the Owensboro City Directories he appears from 1889 through 1930 and was enumerated in the 1900, 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses

of Owensboro. In 1897 he was employed at the Thomson & Brodie Tobacco Factory. The 1905-06 Owensboro Directory shows David W. Valentine, employee Rock Springs Distillery, wife Emma, residence 804 Hathaway. In the 1910 census he was reported to be an engineer at a distillery, in 1920 a distillery watchman, and in 1930 a farmer.

**Walker, Dr. Perry G.**, 3 shares. Born 27 Sep 1868 Baltimore, Maryland; son of Perry G. Walker & Mary E. Snowden. Died 26 May 1924 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1924 - #11161). Buried Westminster, Maryland. He is listed with his parents in the 1880 census of Alexandria, VA. On 23 January 1894 he was granted a license to practice medicine in the state of Kentucky (Daviness County Medical Register, p57). His license reported that he was a graduate of the medical department at Howard University in the District of Columbia on 15 April 1891. In 1900 he was serving in the US Army's 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry and was stationed at San Fernando in the Philippine Islands, where he was enumerated in the 1900 Federal Census. He was serving as a hospital steward; his place of birth was given as Maryland and his residence as 717 Green Street in Henderson, KY. Listed immediately after him in the census was Randolph F. White, both shortly located in Owensboro. Mr. White, a pharmacist, was also one of the stockholders of Greenwood Cemetery. Dr. Walker's obituary states "he had been city physician for the Negroes of Owensboro for a number of years. He came here twenty-two years ago from Westminster, Maryland. Dr. Walker served in the medical corps of the United States army in the Philippines, and made a good record". He is first found in the Owensboro Directories in the 1903-04 edition; he was at this time one of four Negro doctors in Owensboro. He is enumerated in the 1910 & 1920 censuses of Owensboro. In 1903-04 and at his death he was a resident at 411 Poplar Street, the home of Richard & Ellen Varian, prominent leaders of the Black community. The 1900 & 1920 censuses reported that he was single. The P. G. Walker Apartment complex in Owensboro was named in his honor.

**Watts, Edward Arnold**, 40 shares. Born May 1870 Tennessee. Died after 1947. Married Artie E. Buckner on 17 July 1895 in Owensboro, KY. On 3 Feb 1894 E. A. Watts was appointed a Notary Public in Daviness County, KY (Daviness County Order Book Q, p301). He is listed in the Owensboro City Directories from 1897-98 through the 1922-23 edition and in the 1900, 1910 & 1920 censuses of Owensboro. In these he is listed as an attorney; the 1900 & 1910 censuses show that he also was serving as a gauger for the Internal Revenue Service. In this period he was Owensboro's only Negro lawyer. The 1903-04 Owensboro Directory has Edward A. Watts, wife Artee E., attorney, residence 532 Poplar. He was the president of the corporation, E. A. Watts & Co. that laid plans for the development of Greenwood Cemetery in 1906. He was the company's president and principal stockholder owning 40 of the initial 98 shares of the Greenwood Cemetery Association. He last appears in the Owensboro Directories in the 1922-23 volume, he was residing at 624 W. 3<sup>rd</sup>. He moved to Manhattan in New York City, where he was counted in the 1930 Federal Census – he was listed as Edward A., age 59, born TN, lawyer & his wife, Artye E., age 52, born KY. His mother-



in-law, Jane (Miller) Buckner, widow of Alfred, died in Owensboro on 14 Jan 1947 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Mrs. Buckner's obituary reported that her daughter, Artie Watts, was a resident of New York City. The following month Edward A. & Artie signed and transferred their interest in a lot in Owensboro that had been willed to her by her mother (Davies County Deed Book 175, p279). One Edward Watts, age 78, was found to have died in Manhattan, NY on 9 Sep 1946, no confirmation was found that this was Edward Arnold Watts formerly of Owensboro.

**Weaver, Joseph E., "Joe"**, 3 shares. Born 5 July 1863 Daviess County, Y; son of Tip Weaver & Caroline Anderson. Died 3 Feb 1914 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1914 - #3815). His death certificate and that of his wife, Ellen, in 1915 reported that they were buried at the city graveyard. Married Dillia Horton on 8 Feb 1883 and Mrs. Ellen (Ross) Wakefield on 14 March 1895, both in Owensboro. He is listed with his parents in the 1870 & 1880 censuses of Owensboro. He appears in the Owensboro City Directories from 1882 through 1914; in these he was reported as being a confectioner and wholesale and retail ice cream manufacturer. The 1900 census of Owensboro gives his occupation as confectioner. The 1905-06 Owensboro Directory has Joseph E. Weaver, confectionery & ice cream, wife Ella, residence 808 Hathaway. The 1914 Directory shows that he was proprietor of the Union Star Café and eating house at his residence, 808 Hathaway, wife Ellen. His obituary in the "Owensboro Messenger" states that he "for many years was proprietor of the Weaver Ice Cream Manufacturing company and became noted for the excellent cream that he made." The "Owensboro Inquirer" added that he was known as "Ice Cream Joe and was the originator of the ice cream wagon, and for a long time peddled ice cream in the residence districts of the city."

**White, Randolph Franklin, D.D.**, 1 share. Born 25 June 1870 Warrington, Florida; son of Moses & Mercy White. Died 1 Jan 1943 Louisville, KY (death certificate 1943 - #1619). Buried Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Louisville. Married Fannie H. about 1901. He was a veteran of the Spanish American War. He is with his parents in the 1870 & 1880 censuses of Warrington, Escambia County, Florida. In the 1900 Federal Census he was at San Fernando in the Philippine Islands. He was then in the US Army's 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry and was a hospital steward. He was reported to be single and a resident of Lexington, KY. He served with Dr. Perry G. Walker in the Philippines and was listed immediately after him in the 1900 census, they both located in Owensboro about 1902-03 and practiced their professions here about 20 years. He is listed as a druggist in the 1910 & 1920 censuses of Owensboro, in the latter he was reported to be operating his own store. He is found first in the Owensboro City Directories in the 1903-04 edition; it reported that Randolph F. White was selling drugs at 812 W. 5<sup>th</sup> and residing the same. He is last found in the Owensboro Directories in 1925; he was then living at 812 W. 5<sup>th</sup>. During this period he was Owensboro's only Negro pharmacist. By 1930 he was a proprietor of a drug store in Louisville, where he and his wife were shown in that year's Federal Census.

**Wright, Peyton**, 1 share. Born Jan 1854 KY. Died 1907 Daviess County, KY. Married Cattie Sherman on 6 Oct 1881 in Owensboro. At the time of the 1880 census of Owensboro he was working as a waiter. He appears in the Owensboro City Directories from 1882 through 1907. In 1882 he was a porter at the Planters House Hotel. In the 1900 Federal Census his name was mistakenly listed as Right Payton. The Owensboro Directories from 1897 to 1907 indicate he was a janitor at the Bank of Commerce (Main & St. Ann) and underneath the Bank conducted a shoe shining parlor; his residence was at 625 Poplar. Two of his sons, Artis (1887-1940) & Robert (1888-1935), were buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro.

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Wesley Acton and Emily Holloway receive Mayor's Award for Excellence from Mayor Waymond Morris on 26 January 1999 for their work in restoring Greenwood Cemetery.

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**E-mail to Keith Lawrence**

[klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com)

24 February 2005

Keith:

I would like to draw to your attention an annotation to your article of 22 February 2005 about Greenwood Cemetery (“Cemetery property hits snag; tower could be removed”). In the article it is stated that: “more than 600 people are buried” there and “it was last used

for a burial in 1974”. These same figures have been repeated in several other “M-I” articles about the cemetery in recent years (for example 22 May 2001, 8 May 2001, 24 Jan 2001, 20 Sep 1998, 16 Sep 1998). The source of these figures may have been a brochure that was prepared and published in 1996 by the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee that contains the same.

It would be more correct to say that burials at Greenwood Cemetery are in excess of 2,000 and the final burial there was made in 1976. I work in the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Public Library. One of the especially great sources we have there is copies of the Kentucky Death Certificates for the years of 1911-1954. I have searched these certificates extensively for particular families and cemeteries of interest that I am researching. One of the things I did was go through all Daviess County deaths and list the certificate numbers for all individuals buried at Greenwood Cemetery. For this 44-year span there was a total of 1,787 burials there. This is an average of 40 per year. There are at least 27 other years of burials in the cemetery prior to 1911 and after 1954 for which we have no death certificates to suggest the actual total. However, it is safe to assume that at the very minimum there would have been at least an average of 10 burials per year for these other 27 years. These added to the 1911-1954 total of 1,787 would place the grand total well over 2,000.

A monument marks the graves of only about 170 of the individuals buried at Greenwood Cemetery. The last person that was reported in the “Messenger-Inquirer” as being buried at Greenwood Cemetery was Mattie Patton (born 11 Sep 1899 – died 12 Feb 1976). She was buried there on 16 Feb 1976 (see issue of 15 Feb 1976, p2D). In the year previous to this, 1975, five burials at Greenwood were noted in the “Messenger-Inquirer”.

Best wishes,  
Jerry Long

P.S. I first considered addressing this to the newspaper as a “Letter to the Editor”. However, I decided to bring it to your attention and let you decide if this is worthy of further consideration now or in the future.

**e-mail from Keith Lawrence ( [klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com) ), 28 February 2005:**

thanks, Jerry. I'll call you first chance I get and do a story about this. Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, (270) 691-7301, fax (270) 686-7868, [klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com)

**Phone call from Keith Lawrence ( [klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com) ), 2 March 2005:**

Called me at the library and asked a couple of questions about Greenwood Cemetery and the Kentucky death certificates.

**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 3 March 2005, p1C:**

## **Cemetery more crowded than thought Greenwood likely has more than 2,000 graves**

**By [Keith Lawrence](#)  
Messenger-Inquirer**

Owensboro's historic Greenwood Cemetery is apparently more crowded than most people thought.

A brochure published in 1996 by the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee says that more than 600 people were buried in the graveyard on Owensboro's east side between 1906 and 1974.

But Jerry Long, an assistant in the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library, says his study of Kentucky death certificates indicates that more than 2,000 people are actually buried in the 13-acre cemetery on Leitchfield Road.

And the last person buried there, he says, was 76-year-old Mattie Patton on Feb. 16, 1976.

At least five people were buried there in 1975, Long said.

He said the Kentucky Room has copies of all Kentucky death certificates from 1911 to 1954 on microfilm.

The state only began keeping death records in 1911, he said. And they are only released to the public 50 years after a person's death.

"I have searched these certificates extensively for particular families and cemeteries of interest that I am researching," Long said. "One of the things I did was go through all Daviess County deaths and list the certificate numbers for all individuals buried at Greenwood Cemetery."

During the 44 years for which records exist, he said, there were 1,787 burials in the cemetery.

"This is an average of 40 per year," Long said. "There are at least 27 other years of burials in the cemetery prior to 1911 and after 1954 for which we have no death certificates to suggest the actual total."

But, he said, "It is safe to assume that, at the very minimum, there would have been at least an average of 10 burials per year for these other 27 years."

That would mean more than 2,000 graves in the cemetery.

Long said only about 170 of the graves have monuments.

The cemetery, started in 1906, stretches between Leitchfield Road and East Parrish Avenue.

Sometime after the last burial, it was abandoned and vandalized. Tombstones were broken and became hidden by tangled brush and trees that covered the property. Scrap lumber, plastic pipe and other trash also littered the cemetery.

In 1996, the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee was formed to clean and maintain the old cemetery. It took more than 200 volunteers two years to complete the work.

In May 2001, Daviess Fiscal Court bought the property at an auction. The county plans to sell the seven acres on East Parrish Avenue that have no graves and use the proceeds to create a trust fund that will ensure the preservation of the old cemetery.

Last week, Fiscal Court members agreed to pay \$25,000 for an environmental survey of the section along East Parrish Avenue.

The survey has to be completed before the property can be sold, Steve Johnson, assistant county administrator, told court members.

**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 22 February 2005, p1A:**

**Cemetery property hits snag**

Author: Keith Lawrence; Messenger-Inquirer

Almost four years after it bought historic Greenwood Cemetery for \$25,000, Daviess Fiscal Court is still encountering snags as it tries to sell the 7.07 acres of the property without graves at 2000 E. Parrish Ave.

Steve Johnson, assistant county administrator, said Monday that Fiscal Court members will soon be discussing how to handle an environmental study of the property.

"We found some trash and debris," he said. "It's nothing serious. But it creates some minor environmental problems, and we need to have an environmental survey before we can sell it."

Johnson said the county is also working on plans to remove an old communications tower from the cemetery and replace it with a new one.

Walter Atherton, deputy director for the Daviess County Emergency Management Agency, said the tower was built in 1968 to handle radio communications for the sheriff's department.

In 1973, fire department radio communication was added to the tower, he said.

But Atherton said the tower was abandoned around 1975 when the county built a new one at what was then the new road department on Kentucky 54. That property was sold last year when the county moved to a new road department on Kentucky 81.

"The tower really needs to come down," Atherton said. "It's dangerous."

Johnson said the county is discussing an arrangement with a Christian radio station that wants a tower in that area.

Tearing down the old tower and building a new 150-foot tower on the same site would cost a private company about \$40,000, he said. The county could do the work for \$25,000, Johnson said.

He said the county wants to use the top of the new tower for the sheriff's department's wireless mobile data terminal transmissions. But there would be room for the radio station's transmitter, too, Johnson said.

If the county builds the tower, it could lease space to the station. If the station builds the tower, its lease payments would be delayed until the cost of the tower is accounted for, he said.

The county bought the 13-acre Greenwood Cemetery at an auction in May 2001 to ensure its preservation.

The idea was to sell the part that fronts busy East Parrish Avenue and use that money to create a trust fund to ensure that the six acres where more than 600 people are buried are maintained forever.

The cemetery, started in 1906, stretches between Leitchfield Road and East Parrish Avenue. It was last used for a burial in 1974.

During the next few years, tombstones were broken and became hidden by tangled brush and trees that covered the property.

Scrap lumber, plastic pipe and other trash also littered the cemetery.

In 1996, the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee was formed to clean and maintain the old cemetery. It took more than 200 volunteers two years to complete the work.

Quality Beers almost bought the seven acres on Parrish Avenue in 2002 for a new warehouse. But the company decided to move to MidAmerica Airpark when it determined that the county property - just east of the Owensboro fire station and across from Windhaven Drive - was too steep for its trucks.

And in 2003, Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline considered the property for its new corporate headquarters, which were later built on Kentucky 56 near Kentucky 81.

That deal got close enough that the county filed a rezoning application with the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Johnson said the goal is still to sell the property and create a maintenance fund. But he said the environmental issue has to be resolved first.

**March 4, 2005 Phone call : From Emily Holloway, 3514 Christie Pl, Owensboro, KY, 270-683-7391:**

Mrs. Holloway called in response to the article in the Owensboro newspaper yesterday that referred to my findings about Greenwood Cemetery. She has served as head of the Greenwood Restoration Committee for several years. She wanted to thank me for my work. She asked about getting copies of my list of those buried at Greenwood. I told her I had only listed the death certificate numbers for those buried there and to copy the near 1,800 certificates it would take quite an investment of time. I suggested possibly volunteers could go through using my list and copy the data about those buried there in the years of 1911-1954. She said she would come in to see what the project would involve. Judge Larry Whittaker of McLean County also called today about Greenwood Cemetery. He was concerned about the legalities of the city selling off portions of the cemetery ground as has been proposed.

**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 28 December 2005, p1B:**

## **Cemetery project in the works**

**By [Renée Beasley Jones](#)  
Messenger-Inquirer**

Next year, historic Greenwood Cemetery turns 100. Events slated for February, May and July will celebrate that milestone.

But before the Memorial Day event, two Greenwood Cemetery volunteers -- Emily Holloway and Wesley Acton -- hope to come up with a more accurate list of people buried at the cemetery, which stretches between Leitchfield Road and East Parrish Avenue. It is estimated as many as 3,000 graves may be there. Only about 170 have monuments.

Holloway and Acton have a list of 600 names that came from three sources: the late Albert Davis' hobby of visiting cemeteries and copying gravestones, information from family members and heirs and information collected by staff members in the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library.

That list of 600 became obsolete earlier this year when state officials released certificates of burial for Daviess County from 1911 to 1954. Jerry Long, a staff member at the library, combed through them and found almost 1,800 show Greenwood as the burial site.

So Acton and Holloway started a project to make copies of those burial certificates, which would provide a truer glimpse of Greenwood's population. For a project so large, though, they need volunteers.

For the year 1911, for example, 48 certificates prove burials took place in Greenwood. To date, only 27 of them have been copied for the record.

That means a total of about 1,775 are left to go. And that doesn't count certificates from 1955 that are due to arrive in February. State officials wait 50 years to release records.

"If we got 10 people who would commit to two hours," Acton said, "that's what I would like to see."

The job requires some patience, said Shelia Heflin, Kentucky Room manager at the library. It's not something that can be done quickly -- and accurately.

Generally, it takes 10 boxes of microfilm to hold a year's worth of certificates.

But Long's many hours of work have lessened the load. He copied the numbers of burial certificates. Now, all volunteers must do is use those numbers to find corresponding burial certificates. Then, they will print a copy of the certificate for the cemetery's record.

"It benefits the whole community," Heflin said. "It will be an advantage for people doing genealogy research."

Some of Holloway's family members are buried at Greenwood. She and Acton teamed up to reclaim the cemetery in 1996.

It took years to clear brush and mow. More than 200 volunteers worked on the project. But the work didn't stop there.

"There were so many things we did not know about the cemetery when we walked in and started cleaning up," Holloway said.

Later, the county bought the cemetery, which is believed to be the largest black cemetery in the area. Inmates at the Daviess County Detention Center maintain the cemetery now.

The state started keeping death records in 1911. Acton and Holloway will continue to use the cemetery's present listing for 1906 to 1911. Until new burial certificates are received and records are corrected, the same holds true of burials between 1955 and 1975.

After nearly a decade of working on the cemetery, Holloway is organizing a book about the experience. She'd like to finish it by the end of next year.

"This is a grass-roots project," Holloway said of reviving Greenwood. "We hope this will help other people in other communities."

To help discover the names of people buried at Greenwood Cemetery, volunteers should go to the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library. Staff members

there will explain the process and provide assistance with microfilm machines. The Kentucky Room is open regular library hours.



Wesley Acton of Pleasant Ridge kneels next to a marker Tuesday afternoon at Greenwood Cemetery across from Rolling Heights public housing units on Leitchfield Road. "We are working on a list of everyone buried here," Acton said. Acton helped spearhead the restoration of the cemetery. Photo by John Dunham, M-I

**Contact : Emily Holloway & Wesley Acton, Greenwood Cemetery Committee members, 31 January 2006:**

Met with them in the Kentucky Room to discuss my progress on a database for burials at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro. I had earlier had compiled a list of all who had died in Daviess County and who were reported as being buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in the 1911-1955 Kentucky death certificates. I had found that there were over 1800 burials there. My discovery was later published as a correction to the Greenwood Cemetery committee and past articles in the Owensboro newspaper that about 600 were buried there. On 28 Dec 2005 an article was published in the newspaper to request volunteers to help copy all of the 1800 death certificates I had listed. With the help of 16 volunteers all of the copies have been organized. I am now developing and organizing an effort compile all of these and others sources on burials at Greenwood into a database. I have so far got 5 people who said they would help. Reported to Ms. Holloway & Mr. Acton about the format to be used and other ideas I had for how to get the database completed. Promised to e-mail a copy of the Works database I had set up to see if he had that software on his computer.

**e-mail : To Wesley Acton ( [wacton4094@aol.com](mailto:wacton4094@aol.com) ), 1 February 2006:**



Mr. Acton: I have attached the Greenwood Cemetery Database file as it exists now. To see if you have the Works Database software on your computer double click twice in fast succession on the icon for the attached file "Greenwood Cemetery.wdb". If you have the required program it will immediately open up. If not you will get a list of other programs on your computer and will be prompted to pick one to attempt to open it with. If you do get this message just close it by clicking on the X in the top right corner. Let me know if you can open it or not. I will be at the Library Thursday and Friday after 12:00 noon. Jerry Long, Kentucky Room

**Greenwood Cemetery, Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY, 2 February 2006:**

Copied data on gravestones in first and second sections in front of cemetery along the Leitchfield Road. Still have to copy third section in the back. Spent 3 hours copying.

**Greenwood Cemetery, Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY, 6 February 2006:**

I finished copying rest of cemetery (3<sup>rd</sup> section, in back). Took 2 ½ hours.

**e-mail : To Bill Johnson ( [wjohn10131@aol.com](mailto:wjohn10131@aol.com) ) & Wesley Acton ( [wacton4094@aol.com](mailto:wacton4094@aol.com) ),  
15 February 2006:**

Mr. Johnson [copy also sent to Wesley Acton]:

I received the file you sent! I added it to the main file and we now have over a third of all the death certificates abstracted.

Recently I spent two days at the cemetery and copied all of the information on all of the headstones. I found monuments for 326 people, including 151 that were not in a prior listing of the cemetery by the late Albert Davis.

The death certificates, data from the cemetery monuments, and additions from obituaries, military records and personal knowledge will all be integrated into one database. After all of this has been done it will give a much better picture of all who were buried at Greenwood. Also in the future it can continue to be added to.

Thanks for your help,  
Jerry Long  
Kentucky Room  
Daviess County Public Library

**County Clerk's Office, Daviess County Courthouse, Owensboro, KY, 30 March 2006:**

From Articles of Incorporation books found and copied incorporation of Greenwood Cemetery Association (1906) and 2001 deed for sale of part of Greenwood Cemetery.

**Phone call : To Emily Holloway (683-7391), Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, 22 April 2006:**

Notified her that I completed getting Greenwood Cemetery Database printed out and have put together a volume of 187 pages. She said the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee would like to have it published. She asked if possible it could be done by Memorial Day. I said I would get estimates this next Monday. She and Mr. Acton will come to the Kentucky Room next week to look at the volume.

**Contact : Emily Holloway (683-7391), Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, 28 April 2006:**

I showed Mrs. Holloway copy of book, "Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY". We went through and discussed several sections. I gave her a Xerox copy to review and asked for any suggestions. Later in the day she called and suggested the following: On page 2 in last paragraph I had said the cemetery was previously well maintained. She said this was not true. Upkeep and care of the cemetery had always been poor. I took out this sentence and reworded the first four sentences of the paragraph. She said the remaining part of the land outside of the cemetery was sold earlier this year. On page 4 at top I took out sentence that said the County was still looking for a buyer. She suggested I add something about Wesley Acton receiving an award from the City along with her in Jan 1999 for his work on the restoration of the cemetery. I copied this article from the newspaper and added it. She said that five members of the Fisher family had in recent years been moved from Greenwood and reburied at Elmwood Cemetery. Wesley Acton would be able to tell me more about this. She also suggested that some pictures be added. I could get these from Mr. Acton. I had early called Sam McDowell and got cost and time estimates for publishing the book. Based on these figures she decided that the Committee would pay for having 20 hardbound and 40 softbound copies printed.

**Phone call : To Wesley Acton (275-4511), Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, 28 April 2006:**

Mr. Acton said I could stop by next Monday on my way to McDowell Publications and pick up some pictures of Greenwood Cemetery. We talked about adding 2 or 3 pages of pictures. He said the following five family members were moved from Greenwood to Elmwood Cemetery – Thomas P. Fisher (1858-1950), Dicie Fisher (1869-1941), John Fisher (5 Jan 1864 – 11 Sep 1930), Amelia Cosby wife of Lee Fisher (1841-1926), & Mary Fisher (31 Jan 1870 – 20 Sep 1932). He lives at Pleasant Ridge, 3931 Old Hartford Road ½ mile off of Highway 231, on left side and atop hill, near trailer.

**e-mail : To Keith Lawrence ( [klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com) ), Messenger-inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 19 June 2006:**

Mr. Lawrence:

I have been encouraged to contact the newspaper about the recent release of a book on Owensboro's Greenwood Cemetery. Because of our past contacts and your

familiarity with the cemetery I thought I would ask your opinion if a small notice could be submitted to the appropriate columnists for consideration.

The Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee thought a small notice about the book would help notify the community of its existence and help to add to the current documentation about burials at the cemetery. The committee is a non-profit organization thus I don't think any notice would be considered an ad. I compiled the book "Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY", but turned it over to the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee. They have financed the project and have since had it published. It was first made available at the recent Greenwood Cemetery Memorial Day service. The book contains a history of the cemetery, a scrapbook of articles, maps & documents about it, a listing of the monuments found in the cemetery, and a printout of a database that documents 2,046 burials there. I have attached a document that gives background data on how the project began - it includes the foreword to the book and its first chapter (an overview of the cemetery's history) and articles about the project from the M-I. In the future we hope to continue to add to the database of burials at Greenwood Cemetery (computer database is located in the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Library).

The book (188 pages) is available from the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, 3514 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY 42301. Contact Wesley Acton (275-4511) or Emily Holloway (683-7391) for additional information about the book. Softbound copies of the book are \$27.00 or hardbound copies \$37.00, add \$3.00 for mail orders.

Thank you for your time,  
Jerry Long  
Kentucky Room  
Daviess County Public Library  
Phone 684-0211 ext. 5  
Home phone 684-6299

**e-mail : From Keith Lawrence ( [klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com) ), Messenger-inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 19 June 2006:**

I imagine suzi can put something in her Names & Notes column about it. I'll forward this to her. Thanks, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, (270) 691-7301, fax (270) 686-7868, [klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com)

**Contact : Gerald L. Smith, University of KY, Lexington, KY, 7 July 2006:**

Mr. Smith who was traveling in Western Kentucky collecting data for a Kentucky African America Encyclopedia called the Kentucky Room. He asked if we had any Black History files. I told him about the recently published book on Greenwood Cemetery and other files and articles we had. He asked for directions to the Library. Several hours later he and his wife visited the Kentucky Room. Shelia & I for about two hours found items related to the local Black community. I made copies of many articles for him including the "Black Kentucky Pioneer" articles I had written for "Kentucky

Pioneer Genealogy & Records". They said they are just starting compiling data for the Encyclopedia and requested our continued assistance on the project.

**e-mail : To Reinette Jones, Diversity and Multicultural Activities Librarian,  
Communications Selector, Research and Education Division, Young Library,  
University of Kentucky, 24 July 2006:**

Ms. Jones:

I would like to draw your attention to a new book, Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY. I thought you might know of some appropriate sites for giving a notice about the existence and availability of the book. Greenwood is the cemetery for Owensboro's African American community. The cemetery commemorates its 100th anniversary this year. The book was published and financed by the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee. I compiled the book but turned it over to the non-profit group for their benefit. The committee was organized in recent years to reclaim the cemetery from the wilderness that it had become. The book was first made available at the recent Greenwood Cemetery Memorial Day service.

The book is 188 pages. It contains a history of the cemetery, a scrapbook of articles, maps & documents about it, a listing of the monuments found in the cemetery, and a printout of a database that documents 2,046 burials there. I have attached a document that gives background data on the project. In the future we hope to continue to add to the database of burials at Greenwood Cemetery (computer database is located in the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Library - contact Jerry Long to make additions to the database). The book to my knowledge is the first book published on African American research in Daviess County. The book is available from the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, 3514 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY 42301. Contact Wesley Acton (275-4511) or Emily Holloway (683-7391) for additional information about the book. Softbound copies of the book are \$27.00 or hardbound copies \$37.00, add \$3.00 for mail orders.

Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library,  
Phone 684-0211 ext. 5, [jlong@dcplibrary.org](mailto:jlong@dcplibrary.org)

**e-mail : From Reinette Jones, Diversity and Multicultural Activities Librarian,  
Communications Selector, Research and Education Division, Young Library,  
University of Kentucky, 24 July 2006:**

Mr. Jerry Long, Thank you very for the great information. I will ask that a copy of the book be ordered for the UK Libraries and I will add an entry for the book, the cemetery, and the database to the Notable Kentucky African Americans web page [we will start resume updating the web page in August 2006]. Does the Greenwood Cemetery database have a formal name? Thank you again for the information and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Reinette

**e-mail : To Reinette Jones, Diversity and Multicultural Activities Librarian,  
Communications Selector, Research and Education Division, Young Library,  
University of Kentucky. 24 July 2006:**

MS. Jones: Thank you for your very prompt response. And for any of the measures you mentioned in your message. We have not assigned any formal name to the database. We have just been referring to it as the Greenwood Cemetery Burial database. Best wishes, Jerry Long

2 August 2006  
Library of Congress  
Anglo-American Acquisitions Division  
USA GIFTS  
101 Independence Ave., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20540-4174

Dear Sir:

I would like to donate a book I have recently published in hopes that it can be entered in the Catalog of the Library of Congress. The book is entitled: Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2006), it has 188 pages. The book was researched and compiled by: Jerry Long (born 1949), 2906 Redford Drive, Owensboro, KY 42303-1642. Greenwood is Owensboro's African American cemetery. The book contains a history of the cemetery, a scrapbook of articles, maps & documents about it, a listing of the monuments found in the cemetery, and a printout of a database that documents 2,046 burials there.

Thank you,  
Jerry Long

2906 Redford Drive  
Owensboro, KY 42303-1642  
Phone 270-684-6299

**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 23 August 2006, p3B:**

### **Names & Notes:**

By [Suzi Bartholomy](#), Messenger-Inquirer

### **Book on Greenwood Cemetery on sale**

Several years ago the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee and Jerry Long started researching the black cemetery on Leitchfield Road.

Wesley Acton, Emily Holloway, Long and volunteers searched death records from 1911 to 1954 and found that more than 2,000 people were buried in Greenwood. When they began the project they thought that there were only about 600 graves.

"Only 200 to 300 of the graves have markers," Long said. When the Kentucky Department of Vital Statistics released death certificates that were 50 years old, Long and

the volunteers found more than 1,400 names listing Greenwood as their final resting place.

Long, who is a professional genealogist and assistant in the Kentucky Room of Daviess County Public Library, has compiled a book -- "Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, Ky."

He became interested in tracing lineage when he was a student at Brescia University. He started out studying history but soon found out psychology was more interesting and changed majors. "I switched from studying about wars to studying individuals."

"Then I stumbled into family history," Long said. He met a woman from the same area of Ohio County that he is from, and they knew some of the same family names, which led him to the Kentucky Room. "We were both related to the same Civil War soldier," he said.

That was 1979, and he's been immersed in the study of genealogy since.

The book on Greenwood is available through Wesley Acton at 275-4511 or Emily Holloway at 683-7391. Cost is \$37 for hardcover and \$27 for soft bound copies.

**e-mail : To Roberta Padgett ( [kygs@fewpb.net](mailto:kygs@fewpb.net) ), corresponding secretary of Kentucky Genealogical Society, 14 February 2007:**

Ms. Padgett:

My name is Jerry Long. I met you several years ago at one of the KGS annual seminars. I would like to donate a copy of a new book I have compiled, "Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY" in the hopes that it will receive a review in your publication and that it will then be placed in the Kentucky Historical Society Library. Greenwood is the African American community cemetery here in Owensboro. The book contains 188 pages and is available from the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, 3514 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY 42301. Contact Wesley Acton (270-275-4511) or Emily Holloway (270-683-7391) for additional information about the book. Softbound copies of the book are \$27.00 or hardbound copies \$37.00, add \$3.00 for mail orders. All proceeds go to the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee and will be utilized for the future welfare of the cemetery. Any publicity or any suggestions about increasing circulation of the book would be greatly appreciated. The book will be placed in the mail today.

I have also attached an article about the cemetery and book in hopes that you might consider it for publication.

Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY, E-mail: [jlong@dcplibrary.org](mailto:jlong@dcplibrary.org)

**Letter : Kentucky Genealogical Society, c/o Roberta Padgett, PO Box 153, Frankfort, KY 40602-0153, 14 February 2007:**

Sent hard bound copy of Greenwood Cemetery book. [Insured at \$1.35].

**e-mail : From Roberta Padgett ( [kygs@fewpb.net](mailto:kygs@fewpb.net) ), corresponding secretary of Kentucky Genealogical Society, 14 February 2007:**

Mr. Long, Of course, I remember you. We would love to have your new book for review in BGR. It would then go to the KHS for their library. I downloaded the article you sent and I am asking you a favor, please. I will write Mr. Mike Watson, our Editor, to tell him of it and if you would, please send him the Binary attachment you sent me. My computer is acting up and I can't send it on to him. I feel sure he can us part/all of it for BGR. Thank you so much, Roberta Padgett, Corresponding Secretary.  
Mike Watson <Mike.watson@anderson.kyschools.us>

**Letter : Roberta Peak Padgett, Kentucky Genealogical Society, PO Box 153, Frankfort, KY 40602-0153, 28 February 2007:**

Thanked me for the contribution of my book on Greenwood Cemetery. She said it will be reviewed in the next issue of "Bluegrass Roots" and the book will be placed in the KY Historical Society Library.

**e-mail : From Roberta Padgett ( [kygs@aol.com](mailto:kygs@aol.com) ), corresponding secretary of Kentucky Genealogical Society, 10 April 2007:**

Mr. Long, I am sure you have your BLUEGRASS ROOTS, 2006, #4 by now and saw your article, but not your book review. I got it in too late and it will be in BGR 2007 #1, which should be mailed by the end of this month. However, this way, I got to call attention to your article in the earlier quarterly. Ha. Your book is wonderful and I know took LOTS of work. I am sure the African-American community is very grateful for all the work this big group of people has done. Thanks again for the book. Do you want a receipt? Roberta

**e-mail : To Roberta Padgett ( [kygs@aol.com](mailto:kygs@aol.com) ), corresponding secretary of Kentucky Genealogical Society, 11 April 2007:**

Ms. Padgett: Thanks for notifying me about the book review. We do not need a receipt for the book that was sent. Thanks for your help, Jerry Long

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The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia, edited by Gerald L. Smith, Karen Cotton McDaniel & John A. Hardin (Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2015, pp216-217):

GREENWOOD CEMETERY, cemetery in Owensboro, ICY, that from 1906 to 1976 served as the final resting place for over 2,000 citizens, including Civil War, World War I, and World War II veterans. In February 1906, a group of 34 African Americans in Owensboro, led by attorney Edward Arnold Watts, purchased a 16-acre plot of land and formed the Greenwood Cemetery Association. The Greenwood Cemetery continued to serve the city's black community for the following 70 years.

The two oldest monuments in the cemetery predate its incorporation. Although their gravestones are at Greenwood, the obituaries for Kittie Ann Jones (died on January

13, 1905) and Benedict A. Hayden (died on August 13, 1905) indicate that they were buried elsewhere. It is unknown when their tombs were moved. Gravestones of many members of the military are located in the cemetery. Four of these (Richard Hardesty, George W. Robertson, Henry Michion Taylor, and Robert Woodard) were Civil War veterans; 48 were World War I veterans; and 14 fought in World War II. Many of Owensboro's most influential African Americans were also buried in the cemetery, including medical doctors, ministers, and teachers. Felix Wallace, an Owensboro native who was the owner and manager of the St. Louis Giants Negro League baseball team, was also buried at Greenwood.

In 1957, the Greenwood Cemetery Association was dissolved, but the United Brothers of Friendship, a fraternal organization, continued to maintain the cemetery until it dissolved in 1972. During the 1970s, Greenwood fell into a state of disrepair, and its last documented burial was in February 1976. The cemetery remained in poor shape, the victim of overgrown brush and vandals, throughout the 1980s and early 1990s. Some family members even removed their loved ones' gravestones to protect them, and others were unable to locate family members' graves because of the tangled brush and tall weeds that had taken over the cemetery's grounds.

In 1996, Wesley Acton and Emily Holloway formed the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee. Together, they promoted the historical importance of the cemetery and organized over 200 volunteers to engage in a massive two-year restoration project. Around the same time, a local genealogist, Jerry Long, pored through thousands of burial certificates for Daviess Co. and discovered that over 2,000 people had been buried at Greenwood, although only about 300 gravestones existed. He later compiled an exhaustive list of all known men and women buried in the cemetery.

In 2001, continued care of the cemetery was ensured after the Daviess County Fiscal Court purchased the property. Throughout the rest of the decade, Greenwood Cemetery, located on 1821 Leitchfield Rd., joined other cemeteries in Owensboro as the site of Memorial Day observances that featured a military honor guard, a 15-gun salute, and the playing of taps.

Long, Jerry. *Greenwood Cemetery: 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, Kentucky*, Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2006.

Newspapers: "Greenwood Cemetery Association Formed to Provide Burial Ground for Colored People," *Owensboro Inquirer*, February 20, 1906, 1; "Greenwood Cemetery Is More Crowded Than Thought," *OMI*, -March 3, 2005, C1; "Cemetery Project in the Works," *OMI*, December 28, 2005, B1; "Services Honor Veterans, Others," *OMI*, May 29, 2011, C1.

—Joshua D. Farrington



