

# Bosley Cemetery

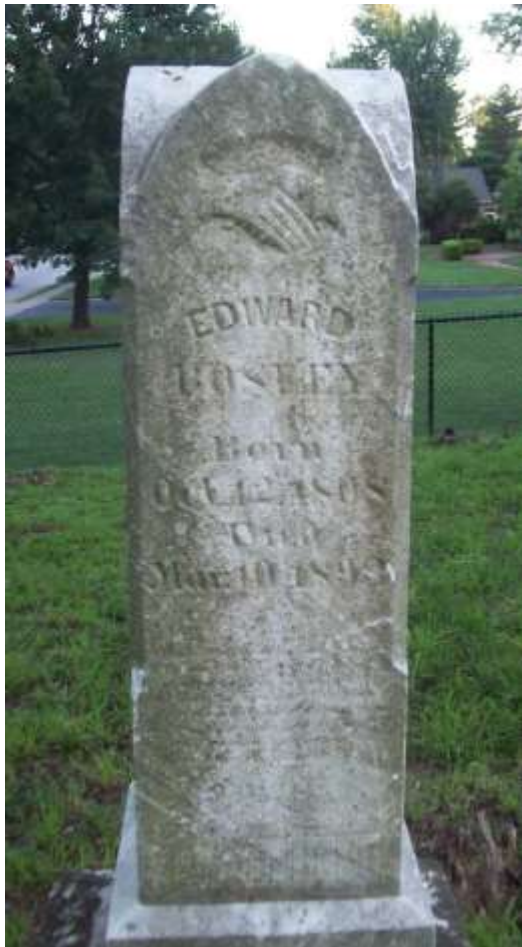
## Owensboro, KY

By Jerry Long  
c.2024



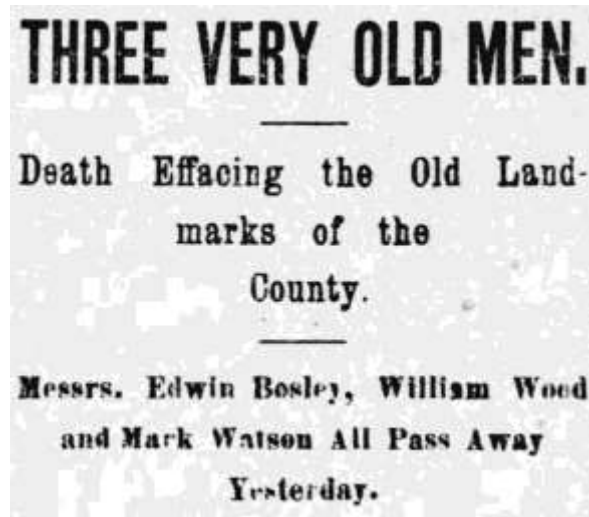
Located on the west side of Lewis Lane behind house facing Griffith Avenue.  
Checked six monuments found in cemetery on 15 August 2024.

- |                                     |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. BOSLEY, Edward                   | 12 Oct 1808 | 10 Mar 1893 |
| BOSLEY, Mary E. Stowers, wife of E. | 25 Nov 1822 | 18 Feb 1905 |
| BOSLEY, Franklin                    | infant      |             |



Monument for Edward Bosley, his wife, Mary E, & their infant son, Franklin

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 11 March 1893, p.1:**



Mr. Edward Bosley died at his residence, one and a half miles south of Owensboro, Ky., March 10, at 10 o'clock a. m. He was born in October, 1808, and had been a resident of Daviess county for sixty-five years. He was an energetic and prosperous farmer and a consistent and honored elder of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He leaves a wife, two sons and three daughters to mourn his loss.

The funeral will take place this afternoon at 2 o'clock from his late residence.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 19 February 1905, p.3:**

AN AGED WOMAN.

Mrs. Mary Emeline Bosley Dies, Aged Eighty-Two Years.

The funeral of Mrs. Mary Emeline Bosley, one of the best known women of the county, who died at 12:40 o'clock Saturday afternoon, took place from the home of her sister, Mrs. H. W. Byers, at the corner of the Bosley road and Parrish avenue, Saturday morning. The burial was in the Bosley burying ground. The services were conducted by Rev. W. P. Thurston. The deceased was a Miss Stowers and was born in Hancock county eighty-two years ago. In 1841 she was married to the late Edward Bosley and since that time resided in Daviess county. She is survived by a brother, Dr. George Stowers, of West Texas, and a sister, Mrs. Fanny Mason, of Hillsboro, Texas. She left five children, Mrs. J. G. Turner, J. G. Lewis, H. W. Byers, Sam Bosley, of Dundee, and T. H. Bosley, of Little Rock, Ark. The deceased was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church for fifty years and was a devoted Christian woman. She had a host of friends and was loved by all who knew her.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 12 December 1882, p.4:**

Miss Alice Bosley, daughter of Mr, Ned Bosley, who lives below the city, died in Illinois Saturday night. She was out there on a visit to relatives.

2. BOSLEY, Alice Nevada d/o E. & M.E.

2 Jan 1860

9 Dec 1882



3. MCFARLAND, Julia F. w/o Samuel

7 Oct 1850

26 Sep 1883



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 2 October 1883, p.4:**

Mrs. Julia McFarland, wife of Sam McFarland, and daughter of Edward Bosley, Esq., died in Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, a few days ago. She was thirty-two years old and a member of the C. P. church. Her remains arrived here yesterday for interment.

4. MITCHELL, E\_ \_-, w/o J. S.

5 Oct 1835

5 May 1876



5. TUTTLE, Marinda, w/o W. R.

14 Sep 1842

13 Dec 1886



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 14 December 1886, p.4:**

**Deaths.**

Mrs. Wm. Tuttle, aged 44 years, died on the 13th of bowel complaint. The funeral will occur from the Cumberland Presbyterian church this afternoon at 1 o'clock.

6. WEAVER, Letsy Bosley w/o J.  
WEAVER, Joseph, aged 64

23 Dec 1801  
2? Feb 1799

28 May 1876  
26 Jul 1863





Name of Letsy Weaver is on one side of monument  
& her husband, Joseph Weaver, is on another side

**Owensboro Examiner, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 2 June 1876, p.5:**

Mrs. Weaver, one of the old mothers in Israel, died on Saturday last, and on Sunday her funeral was preached in connection with the dedicatory sermon at Pleasant Ridge Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Weaver was one among the oldest residents of Daviess county, having resided within its borders for almost half a century. She was a devoted Christian, affiliating with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The great desire of her closing days was to be permitted to live to participate in the dedicatory services of the new Pleasant Ridge Church, at which she held her membership; but it was otherwise ordained, the veteran Christian and good woman passing to the reward of the righteous only the day preceding the ceremonies.



**Notes on the Bosley Family**

Edward Bosley was born 12 October 1808 in Shelby County, KY. He was the son of Isaac Walker Bosley (1764-1851) & Elizabeth Hutchins (1772-1826), who were married in Baltimore

County, Maryland on 15 February 1793. Isaac was still residing in Maryland on 23 December 1801 when his daughter, Letsy, was born. In 1802 the family moved to Shelby County, KY, where Isaac first appears in the tax lists in 1802. Isaac was listed in the 1820 census of Shelby County, KY. He first appears in the annual tax lists of Daviess County, KY in 1826. He is listed in the 1830 census of Daviess County, KY. In the 1850 Daviess County, KY census Isaac is listed in the home of his son, Edward Bosley. Children of Isaac W. & Elizabeth Bosley were: James H. (died 1840), Mary (wife of Nathaniel Long), Betsy (died single in 1851), Letsy (1801-1876, wife of Joseph Weaver), Nicholas George (1803-1886), Joshua (died 1834), Edward (1808-1893) and Miranda.

Edward ('Ned') Bosley is listed in the 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses of Daviess County, KY. Censuses reported his occupation as farmer. The 1876 Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY (p.47) shows that he then owned a farm of 127 acres at the location of where the Bosley Cemetery is today. The 1860 Daviess County Slave Schedule reported that Edward was the owner of six slaves.

Edward Bosley married Mary Emeline Stowers, 25 November 1841 Hancock County, KY. Mary was the daughter of Samuel Stowers & Henrietta Edwards. Mary was born 25 November 1822 in the area that is now Hancock County, KY and died 16 February 1905 Owensboro, KY. Daviess County, KY Administrators Bond Book 11, page 32-33, reported that Edward Bosley died on 10 March 1893 and J. G. Turner was appointed administrator of his estate on 3 March 1894.

The 1900 census of Daviess County, KY, recorded that Emeline Bosley, widow, born November 1822, was the mother of 10 children 5 of whom were then deceased. Edward Bosley & Mary Emeline Stowers were the parents of:

1. Marinda Bosley was born 14 September 1842 Daviess County, KY and died 13 December 1886 Daviess County, KY. She married Thomas M. Smith, 5 June 1881 Spencer County, IN and William Robert Tuttle (1838-1913), 20 February 1882 Daviess County, KY. She was buried in the Bosley Cemetery, Owensboro, KY.
2. Samuel Isaac Bosley was born 16 June 1844 Daviess County, KY and died 10 January 1925 Ohio County, KY. He married Mary Elizabeth Turner (1850-1933), 1 July 1885 Daviess County, KY. He was buried Deanfield Cemetery, Ohio County, KY.
3. Henrietta Stowers Bosley was born 5 September 1846 Daviess County, KY and died 25 June 1924 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. She married Henry W. Byers (1836-1902), 22 February 1866 Daviess County, KY. She was buried Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY (section C).
4. Elizabeth Bosley, 'Betsy', was born c1847 Daviess County, KY and died 11 December 1878. She married Joseph Hutson McVay (1831-1909), 7 May 1868 Daviess County, KY. She was buried Smith River Cemetery, Smith River, Del Norte County, CA.
5. Julia F. Bosley was born 7 October 1850 Daviess County, KY and died 26 September 1883 Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory. She married Samuel McFarland (1847-1929), 25 November 1880 Daviess County, KY. She was buried in the Bosley Cemetery, Owensboro, KY.
6. Franklin Bosley. On the same monument with his parents is engraved "Franklin Bosley infant." No dates are given. In multiple family trees on Ancestry.com it is entered that he was born in 1852 and died in 1855.
7. Timeleon Hewett Bosley, 'Tim', was born 23 February 1855 Daviess County, KY and died 28 September 1945 Los Angeles County, CA. He married Bettie Maxey (1861-1937), 22 February 1883 Daviess County, KY. He was buried Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, Los Angeles County, CA.

8. Emma Bosley, 'Emily', was born 24 March 1857 Daviess County, KY and died 7 March 1947 Habit, Daviess County, KY. She married James Garland Lewis (1847-1935), 20 February 1879 Daviess County, KY, She was buried Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY (section I).
9. Alice Nevada Bosley was born 2 January 1860 Daviess County, KY and died 9 December 1882 in Illinois. She was buried Bosley Cemetery, Owensboro, KY.
- 10 Georgia Edwards Bosley was born 19 March 1862 Daviess County, KY and died 9 August 1944 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. She married John Gideon Turner (1855-1933), 13 November 1884 Daviess County, KY. She was buried Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY (section A).

Letsy Bosley, daughter of Isaac Waler Bosley & Elizabeth Hutchins and sister of Edward Bosley (1808-1893) was buried in the Bosley Family Cemetery in Owensboro. She was born 23 December 1801 Maryland and died 28 May 1876 Daviess County, KY. She married Joseph Weaver, 4 June 1822 Shelby County, KY. Joseph was born in 1799 in Virginia. He may be the son of William Weaver (age 81, born VA), who is listed in Joseph's household in the 1850 census. Joseph is listed in the 1830, 1840, 1850 & 1860 censuses of Daviess County, KY. The 1850 census gave his occupation as farmer and the 1860 census has that he was a Cumberland Presbyterian minister. The 1860 Daviess County Slave Schedule shows him as being the owner of seven slaves. He wrote a will on 9 June 1863 and it was recorded in August 1863 (Daviess County, KY Will Book A-B, pp.207-208). In his will he named his wife, Letsy, and James U. Bosley, son of Letsy's deceased brother, James H. Bosley.

The History of Daviess County, Kentucky (Chicago ,IL, Inter-State Publishing Co., 1883) has several references to Joseph Weaver & his wife, Letsy:

- p.335 – Joseph Weaver, about 1839, was one of the first brick-masons in the town of Owensboro
- p.382 – Joseph Weaver & wife were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church upon its formation in the fall of 1839. Joseph was an elder and trustee of the church.
- pp.719 & 720 – “Cumberland Presbyterian Church. — In 1848 Nicholas G. Bosley and Joseph Carlin and their families met George Scarborough, of Owensboro, in a little log school-house of the Pleasant Ridge neighborhood, for the purpose of organizing a Sunday-school. The school increased in numbers till 1850, when a protracted meeting was held by Rev. Samuel Calhoun and Rev. Joseph Weaver, at the residence of the latter, the result of which was the organization of the Pleasant Ridge church.” The founding members of the church also included: Edward Bosley, Elizabeth Bosley, Letsey Weaver, Zarilda Bosley and Emeline Bosley. “Rev. Joseph Weaver preaching the third Sabbath. Mr. Weaver died in 1863.”
- p.786 – Rev. Samuel “Calhoun's health was rapidly declining; the church was completed and paid for, and the day announced for its dedication by its aged, declining pastor. What a strange occurrence; what peculiar solemnity pervaded the minds of the populace. All appeared to be impressed with the idea that that would be the last sermon that their pastor would ever preach. The day arrived, the congregation began to assemble, and behold! the new church was draped in mourning. How sad all appeared. What was the cause of the drapery? Betsey Weaver, wife of Rev. Joseph Weaver, an aged and pious mother of the church, who had labored with Mr. Calhoun from the early history of the country, and who had contributed \$500 to the church, the interest of whose declining life had been the church

and its dedication, was there lying upon the icy lap of death in the new church. She had been very frail for several weeks, but looked forward with anxious care to the completion and dedication of the church. It was the theme of her conversation. She was asked the question the evening previous, if she thought she would be able to attend the dedication on the morrow? She paused a moment, and with a pensive sigh, replied . "I'll be there," and in a few moments was dead. True, she was there to receive her mournful tribute of funeral respect.

A monument for the wife of J. S. Mitchell, born 5 October 1835 and died 5 May 1876 is also found in the Bosley Cemetery. Part of the top of the monument is broken off and only the first letter, E, of her name is visible. This is (Miss) Emma Hagan, who married Joseph Samuel Mitchell (1851-1891), 10 February 1874 Daviess County, KY. After Emma's death in 1876 he married Mary Jane Higdon, 18 February 1878 Daviess County, KY. I could find no indication that Emma (Hagan) Mitchell was related to the Bosley family. Joseph Samuel Mitchell is buried at the Lancaster Cemetery near Stanley in Daviess County, KY.

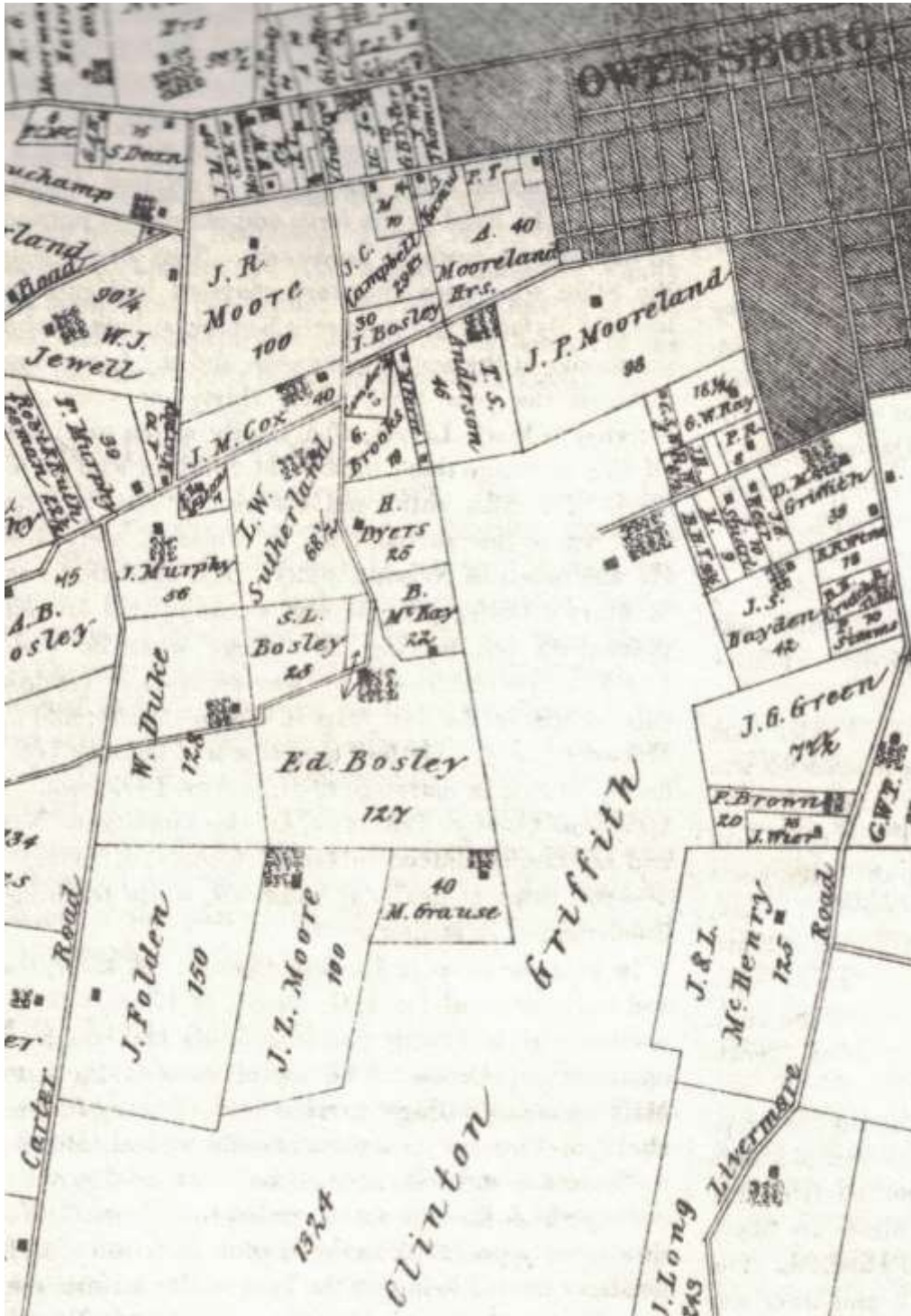


Bosley Cemetery is at southwest corner of Griffith Avenue & Lewis Lane





An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY.  
Leo McDonough & Co., 1876, p.47 (plat of Lowertown Precinct):



Ed. Bosley's (1808-1893) farm of 127 acres, where the Bosley Family Cemetery is located, is shown in the center of the preceding map. On the east side of his property were lands of Clinton D. Griffith (1828-1896); whose home formerly stood where the First Presbyterian Church on Griffith Avenue is now. A little west of the Bosley farm is Carter Road. The double lines extending north above Bosley's farm is the Bosley Road; further north of Edward Bosley, near the Bosley Road, are lands owned by Samuel I. Bosley and Isaac W. Bosley.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 12 October 1886, p.3:**

The seventy-eighth birthday of Mr. Edward Bosley was celebrated yesterday by a family reunion. His seven children and their children were all present, as well as several old friends and relatives. The aggregate of the ages of the twelve persons who sat down at the first table was 718, an average of nearly 60.



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 26 October 1933, p.6:**

Hafa Column Or So By Ottrello Miller

One of the old historical spots in Owensboro, little remembered and little noticed now, is the old Bosley family cemetery, out near the end of Griffith avenue. No doubt well kept and a prominent spot in other years, it is difficult to find through the thick foliage of surrounding trees. A peaceful, unbothered resting place for the dead, with a scarcely-traveled road alongside of it on which, it is said, moderns sometimes find it convenient to 'run out of gas,' or whatever excuse they offer now.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 11 March 1936, p.5:**

RAMBLES AROUND AND ABOUT TOWN

Wonder how many motorists drive out to the end of Griffith avenue of a Sunday afternoon, turn around at the end and come back? Well, what else is there to do? There is no connected boulevard system in the city. The Griffith avenue section is rapidly being divided up into building lots. And a few years ago, it was considered country.

A touch of yesterday is the old Bosley family burial ground, just off Griffith avenue at its western extremity. Oldest tombstone is that of Letsy Bosley, who died May 28, 1876. The stonemason who executed the lettering, got the "N" in "Born" backwards. Lucky he wasn't a newspaper man. Think how hard it would be to print a correction!



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 30 April 1967, p.5A:**



SERVICE PROJECT – Members of the Young Historians Association of Southern Junior High School are pictured during a clean-up project at the Bosley Cemetery, on Lewis Lane. The clean-up crew is doing this as a service project for the community and plan to clean the Moseley Cemetery on Fifth Street and the Bosley - Jackson Cemetery on the Bosley Road. These are all private family cemeteries.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 11 June 1967, p.7C:**

Birdie's Breezy Bits  
By L. D. "Birdie" Gasser

The Young Historians at Southern Junior High School are working on a summer project cleaning cemeteries. We have already completed the Bosley Cemetery on Lewis Lane and are now working on our second one at Rome, Kentucky. There is a lot of enthusiasm and the attendance is rather large. Any family that has a family plot or knows of a cemetery that needs cleaning, please write to Box 1355 or to our sponsor, Mrs. William Fowler, 1642 Monarch Drive. We must have a permission slip with the landowner's name.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 16 July 2002, p.1C:**

## Teacher gives new life to neglected graveyard

By Dylan Sullivan, Messenger-Inquirer

It's a place that could have come straight out of the pages of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

Just south of Griffith Avenue and Lewis Lane, up a few concrete steps and just past a rickety gate is the Bosley family burial plot, now emerging from years of neglect.

Steve Hohman, a religion teacher at Owensboro Catholic Middle School, is preparing to put "finishing touches" on the plot when school begins next month. He is using the experience of cleaning up the plot to teach his eighth-grade religion class one of the "corporal works of mercy" in the Catholic Church: burial of the dead.

He got the idea from one of his students. Before, he didn't even know the burial plot existed.

"We've driven by it for years but never noticed it," he said.

When Hohman first entered the approximately 60-foot long square plot in spring 2001, it looked more like a thicket than a graveyard.

"It was basically briars, dead trees, beer bottles and a bunch of old lumber," he said.

Now, after two years' worth of work from students, the plot is completely free of brush and the ground is free of litter. In one corner, under the shade of tall trees, is a pile of gravestones, most dating from the late 1800s.

Hohman said this pile was created, "to more or less get things out of the way" when the city began turning the former Bosley farm into lots decades ago. Next year, he hopes to place the headstones at graves.

"We're going to move the tombstones back to the right plots," he said, though "right" in this case is a relative term.

"We're not exactly sure who is buried where," Hohman said. "I went down to the courthouse but they didn't have good records."

After placing the gravestones, Hohman, with his students, plans to place topsoil and plant grass seed over the brown, bare ground. Then, he might install benches on the city property and turn it into something almost parklike.

While the bulk of the physical work may end soon, Hohman plans to keep his students involved in the plot's maintenance.

"I hope it's not something that demands a lot of upkeep," he said. "It will be a small commitment for a long period of time."



### **Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 14 October 2006, p.1B:**

Stephanie Dooper, 12, left, and Emily Woodward, 12, take a closer look at a headstone while trying to determine the inscription Friday in a Bosley family cemetery at Lewis Lane and Griffith Avenue. The girls were with a group of Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Owensboro Catholic Middle School, who were spending part of the day clearing brush and weeds from the cemetery. "One of things we want to do with FCA is go out and do projects for the community," said faculty co-sponsor David Ralph about the work, which will be a several-day endeavor. The cemetery, which is owned by the city, has headstones dating to the mid-1 800s.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 29 March 2010, p.1B:**

### Of grave concern FCA chapter taking care of abandoned city cemetery

By Suzi Bartholomy, Messenger-Inquirer

A group of students at Owensboro Catholic Middle School are performing a corporal act of mercy and at the same time preserving a piece of Owensboro history.

Six or seven years ago, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes volunteered to clear the brush from a small cemetery at Lewis Lane and Griffith Avenue and keep it mowed.

Daviess County Public Library documents list McFarland, Bosley and Pruden surnames of people buried there.

One of the corporal acts is respect for the dead, said David Ralph, who is director of technology at OCMS and adviser to the student organization.

Wednesday afternoon, FCA member Alyssa Ralph, her dad, David, and OCMS Athletic Director Mark Woodward were mowing and sowing grass seed at the final resting place of Daviess County pioneers.

If it wasn't baseball, softball and track season, more athletes would be working at the cemetery, David Ralph said.

There are 27 graves visible, but the trio believes many more people are buried there.

The oldest gravestone is dated 1799. Kentucky became a state in 1792.

Several of the graves are of infants, Alyssa Ralph said.

While most people decried the loss of trees because of the January 2009 ice storm, David Ralph called the storm a blessing.



Before the ice storm, David Ralph said, "You couldn't see sunshine in here, there were so many trees."

On the other side of the coin, the nearest neighbor to the graveyard, Mary Margaret Craig, who has lived in her Griffith Avenue home for more than 50 years, treasured the trees.

Craig said her house was built 72 years ago, when Lewis Lane was a dirt road. Craig's backyard abuts the cemetery.

Craig said before the ice storm, the view from her dining room window reminded her of being in the country.

After the storm, the city removed most of the trees from the property.

"They wouldn't let us come in here until they cleared it," David Ralph said.

"Before the property was cleaned up, not many people knew it was a cemetery," David Ralph said.

Craig said there probably are more graveyards in Owensboro like the one at the end of her backyard.

"I was at a gathering some years ago, and a gentleman, whose name I don't remember, said there are grave sites around town that little by little bit have disappeared," Craig said.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 3 May 2022, p.1A:**

**Small family cemeteries dot city, county**

Findagrave.com among top sources for ancestry researchers

By Nathan Havenner, Messenger-Inquirer

While modern cemeteries are often large expanses maintained by a fleet of landscapers, in the not too distant past, small family cemeteries located on private property were a common sight to behold.

These small family cemeteries can still be found throughout Daviess County, and even with the neighborhoods of Owensboro.

Located near the corner of Lewis Lane and Griffith Avenue in Owensboro, one of these small family cemeteries sits amongst the urban development that surrounds it.

Known as Bosley Family Cemetery, the cemetery was once a part of the Nicholas [should be Edward] Bosley Farm. These days the cemetery is quite literally in Bettye Cain's backyard.

Cain said Tuesday that she has lived at the property for about eight years.

"We didn't know the cemetery came with it," she said while watering her flowers Monday. "We were just interested in the house."

When she found out the deed also included the Bosley Family Cemetery, Cain said it did not change her mind about the house.

"They are not going to bother you, nobody is coming back to life in there," Cain said with a laugh.

While the land is technically private property, Cain said they do not have to do anything to maintain the cemetery. The city does all the mowing and maintenance.

Cain said that she does see visitors at the cemetery from time to time, which is separated from her own backyard by a brick wall and a gate.

"We have a locked gate, and they don't come over into our yard so we don't care if they look in the cemetery; it is fine with us," she said.

With stones deteriorated, some lying on the ground knocked from their original position, Cain said she would like to see a descendant of the family make some efforts to do some repair work.

Local historian Adam Paris said he gained an interest in locating and documenting the small family cemeteries that dot the Daviess County landscape after he began researching his own family tree.

Paris said he has about 150 of the small cemeteries mapped out from all over Daviess County.

While he enjoys having some boots on the ground experiences at the different cemeteries, Paris said they are oftentimes located on private property.

"There are a lot of them out there that are back on people's farms or behind their yards, so I kind of understand why some people don't want them talked about or mentioned, because you might have an influx of people coming on your property throughout the day," he said.

Paris said he always attempts to contact the property owner to ask permission to come out to the cemetery on their land.

"If I don't get a response, I just take that as a no," he said. "Most of the times when I do reach out I don't usually have too much of a problem getting permission."

Paris said that for those looking to locate a small or obscure cemetery in Owensboro or Daviess County can find resources in the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library.

"I feel like the last big group effort to document these was during the 1970s, so they actually have some books and information down there from when people were going out and looking for these cemeteries, and writing down who was there and how many stones they found and what kind of condition they are in," Paris said.

Another good resource for researchers is the website [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Paris said. The website utilizes local historians to photograph and document old cemeteries and upload the information to create a worldwide database of cemetery records.

"I would say there are a lot of them that are on there, there are a few that aren't" he said. "That is probably the best resource outside of the library that I would suggest for people."

Daviess County Judge Executive Al Mattingly said he is aware of the many small family cemeteries that dot the community landscape, but the county does not have a formal role in maintaining any of those.

"I can tell you that on occasion we have had requests from some of these cemeteries to help mow, and back before the pandemic we were able to lend them some inmates to do some mowing," he said.

Mattingly said the county does own the historic Greenwood Cemetery, located at 1821 Leitchfield Road. Founded in 1906, the cemetery served as Owensboro's Black cemetery, with burials continuing until 1976. Eventually the cemetery fell into disrepair before it was purchased by the county.

Mattingly said many volunteers also helped restore the cemetery, which is still mows the grass and provides some maintenance assistance to the cemetery.



The historic Bosley Family Cemetery was once a part of a family farm, but is now private property.



A grave is shown in the small Bosley Family Cemetery in Owensboro. The family cemetery is now private property and is owned by neighboring homeowners.





**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 1 December 1970, p.2B:**

## **Bosley Family History Is Tied to Geography**

The Daviess County Historical Society heard H. Vernon Bosley relate the "History of the Bosley Road," at the November meeting.

The present Bosley Road in Daviess County was named for the family of Isaac Walker Bosley, who came to Daviess County in 1836, from near Baltimore, Md. After a short stay in Shelby County, Bosley moved his family, which consisted of three sons and two daughters, west to Daviess County.

Isaac Bosley and his son, Edward, lived at what is now the southeast corner of the intersection of Griffith Avenue and Bosley Road. However, at that time, Griffith Avenue extended only as far west as what is now the First Presbyterian Church at Griffith and Clinton Place.

The old Bosley family cemetery on Lewis Lane is the burial ground for many of the Bosley family, friends, neighbors and numerous slaves.

Lewis Lane turned west at its present intersection with Griffith and proceeded to what is now the Griffith Avenue-Bosley Road intersection. Bosley Road thence proceeded along what is now Bittel Road past the present Owensboro-Daviess County Airport until it intersected with the old Calhoun Road and what is now the Worthington Road. The intersection of Bosley Road and the current Griffith Avenue-Bosley Road continued north, intersecting 9th Street and then north until it ended at the old ravine. The old ravine emptied into the Ohio River at the foot of St. Elizabeth Street, where Bill Smothers' cabin stood.

South of the old ravine were two ridges. One ridge is now Parrish Avenue and the other ridge forms at Griffith Avenue.

An analysis of the watershed part of the old Bosley Road, now Bittel Road, going toward the airport, is interesting. All water falling south of this road drains to Panther Creek. All water falling north of this road goes into Green River, via Rhodes Creek. Thus, water which falls within a mile of the Ohio River, and within the present city limits of Owensboro, actually drains about 10 miles west into Green River.



## **A History of the Bosley Road in Daviess County, Kentucky**

By Hugh Vernon Bosley

### **I. THE BOSLEY ROAD**

The present Bosley Road in Daviess County, Kentucky was named for the family of Isaac Walker Bosley, who came to Daviess County in 1836, from the general Baltimore area in

Maryland, along with his three sons and two daughters, Edward, James, Nicholas, Jo Letsey and Mary, after a short stay in Shelby County, Kentucky.

Isaac Bosley and his son, Edward, lived at what is now the southeast corner of the intersection of Griffith Avenue and Bosley Road, However, at this time, Griffith Avenue did not extend any farther west than what is now the First Presbyterian Church,

The old Bosley family cemetery behind the present Lawrence Hager house on Lewis Lane, is the burial ground for many of the Bosley family, friends, neighbors and numerous Negro slaves, who were buried in the burial grounds of the families who owned them.

Lewis Lane turned westerly, at its present intersection with Griffith, and thence proceeded along what is now Griffith Avenue, until it intersected at Bosley Road at what is now the Griffith Avenue - Bosley Road intersection. Bosley Road thence proceeded along what is now Bittle Road past the present Owensboro-Daviess County Airport until it intersected with the Old Calhoun Road and what is now the Worthington Road.

The intersection of Bosley Road and what is now Griffith Avenue - Bosley Road continued northerly, intersecting Ninth Street and thence northerly until it ended at the old ravine. The old ravine emptied into the Ohio River at the foot of St. Elizabeth Street, where Bill Smothers cabin stood.

South of the old ravine were two ridges. One which is now the south side of Parrish Avenue, and the other ridge forms the south side of Griffith Avenue.

An analysis of the watershed part of the old Bosley Road, now the Bittle Road, going toward the Airport, is interesting. All water falling south of this road drains into Panther Creek. All water falling north of this road goes into Green River, via Rhodes Creek, inspite of its proximity to the Ohio River. Thus, water which falls within a mile of the Ohio River, and within the present city limits of Owensboro, actually drains about ten miles west into the Green River.

From the old ravine north to the Ohio River, was a farm known as the old Colts Crabtree farm, which was owned by a land and slave owner, of the same name, with extensive holdings. This general area contained distilleries and packing houses as early as the first half of the nineteenth century.

## II. SOME THOUGHTS ON THE BOSLEY FAMILY

Isaac Walker Bosley's son, Nicholas, ran a packing house during the civil war period and shipped meat and supplies to the Confederate Forces. This was brought to an abrupt halt when Federal troops gained control of the Ohio River. Federal forces confiscated the business and were going to hang old Nick when he called out to one of the men in the lynching mob. The man admitted he knew Mr. Bosley, and after discussion among themselves cut the rope down and went away.

Nicholas Bosley, along with Mr. Hunter Bell, started the first agricultural fair in Daviess County. Nicholas donated the ground for the old Cumberland Ridge Presbyterian Church, which was in close proximity to the northwest part of the Owensboro Airport, as well as obtaining the site for the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

[Note by J. Long: Hugh Vernon Bosley (1889-1973) is a great-nephew of Edward Bosley (1808-1893). He is the son of Isaac Worth Bosley (1848-1931) & Margaret Ellen Pope (1851-1915); grandson of Nicholas George Bosley (1803-1886) & Zerilda Allan Baker (1818-1879); and great-grandson of Isaac Walker Bosley & Elizabeth Hutchins.]





Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 24 November 1897, p.5:

Important Land Sale.

Mr. O. H. Haynes, the real estate agent, effected an important sale of property yesterday. He sold to Mrs. A. B. Bosley a tract of forty-two acres , on Griffith avenue extended, the property of Mr. James Weir, for \$125 per acre. Griffith avenue will soon be extended out to the Bosley road.



November 14, 1995

Mr. Jerry Long  
1701 Alexander Avenue  
Owensboro, Kentucky 42303

Dear Mr. Long:

I've been rereading some of my Kentucky Family Research Record volumes. I noticed your name repeatedly as compiler of old cemetery records.

I am descended from the people who are buried in the old Bosley Cemetery in Owensboro. It is located on Lewis Lane at the intersection of Lewis Lane and Griffith Avenue. Heading west, you turn on Lewis Lane to the left at that intersection and the cemetery is on the right at the top of the hill. It has a wall in front built of stone with an iron gate at the top of steps.

Would it be possible after all the foliage drops from the trees, shrubs and weeds for you to get in there and see who is in there?

The only Bosley I know in Owensboro is Nancy Bosley Tongate, sister to Hugh Bosley of the Moonlite Cafe. She is 82 and not able to get in there herself.

If I lived closer and were able to come down there myself, I would try and do it myself. I know it is an imposition to ask you but I'll never know if I don't ask. It would be niceto have a record of who is buried there for the Family Record Volume, The original Bosley who came to Owensboro in 1925 [sic] has to be there. Others probably are his wife Elizabeth Hutchins Bosley, James H. Bosley, Rachel Norris Bosley and perhaps Judith Hewlett Hutchings. Ny ancestor's name is Isaac W. Bosley. The Isaac W. Bosley who is buried at Elmwood is his grandson.

I'm enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience in either saying yes or no to my request.

Thank you for your consideration. Yours truly,  
Mrs. Nancy Bosley Goodbar , WCK:FRA Member # 2071  
5187 Savina Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45415, Telephone Number 513-836-8077

[I sent Mrs. Goodbar a listing of the monuments in the Bosley Cemetery made by Michael J. Edgeworth in 1961 and published in the Kentucky Genealogist, Volume 10, issue no. 1, January-March 1968, Martha Porter Miller, pp.7-8.]



Hugh Benjamin Bosley (1914-2003) owned and operated a widely known Owensboro institution – the Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn. He is great-great-nephew of Edward Bosley (1808-1893), who is buried in the Bosley Cemetery in Owensboro. Hugh B. is the son of George Pope Bosley (1872-1953) & Mary Ann Rowland (1877-1933); grandson of Isaac Worth Bosley (1848-1931) & Margaret Ellen Pope (1851-1915); great-grandson of Nicholas George Bosley (1803-1886) & Zerilda Allan Baker (1818-1879); and great-great-grandson of Isaac Walker Bosley (1764-1851) & Elizabeth Hutchins (1772-1826).



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 27 April 2013, p.5A:**

**Moonlite has made an impact**

Moonlite is an Owensboro institution.

It's where celebrities and a president have dined.

It's where tourists and locals alike go to have barbecue that's unlike any other — mutton and burgoo for starters.

And for 50 years, Moonlite has built not just a regional following but a national reputation for its delectable barbecue, which includes a one-of-a-kind buffet.

Moonlite's history is one that's ideal to the American Dream.

In 1963, Hugh Sr. and Catherine Bosley took a chance on the unknown 14-year-old barbecue joint by selling their home and using the equity as a down payment to purchase the business.

And for the past five decades, the Bosley family, which is now preparing its fourth generation for its turn, has operated the popular West Parrish Avenue eatery.

"I started coming down here two hours a day out of elementary school," said Pat Bosley, who is a third generation family member. "When you grow up in a family business, you grow up

differently. Having family here during the day makes a difference. You stand apart from a chain store restaurant."

From their hard work and success, they've made the restaurant a landmark business and a tourist destination — something that not every city can claim.

Over the years, Moonlite has also had its share of famous customers — Emmylou Harris, Jim Nabors and William Shatner. Most notably, however, was former President Bill Clinton in 2000.

For any business, especially for restaurants that easily come and go, 50 years is a milestone worth celebrating.

And on Sunday, Moonlite will be officially recognizing its half-century of service with the community.

Most would attribute the Bosley family as one of the major reasons for the city becoming known as the "barbecue capital of the world."

The Bosley family has much to be proud of, and that includes helping to place both barbecue and Owensboro on the map.

[Also diners at the Moonlite included: Bill Monroe, Pam Tillis, Kevin Costner, Reba McEntyre, Al Gore, Marilyn Quayle and Evan Bayh.]

