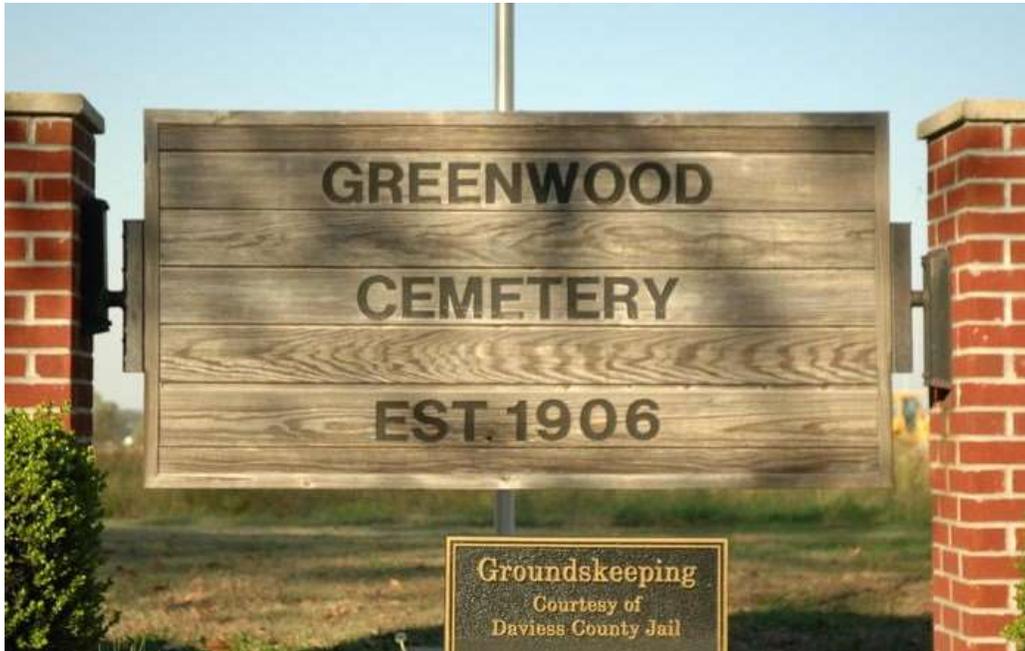


Greenwood Cemetery History

1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY

By Jerry Long

c. 2006



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Database of Greenwood Cemetery Burials

The year 2006 was the 100th 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 comprehensive record of burials at the cemetery is known to exist. Utilizing a listing of the gravestones in the cemetery, death certificates for Daviess County (1911-1967), 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 October 2024 the current total of documented burials is up to 2,391. No doubt this is not comprehensive of all burials but it is a 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 copies of the documentation that prove each of these burials can be found – there are currently 13 volumes in the series, library catalog # KR 976.9864 Long.

If you know of others that are buried at Greenwood please contact this author so they can be added to this listing.

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.



History of Greenwood Cemetery

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 newspapers published the following notices:

Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 30 January 1906, p4

COLORED CEMETERY

Negro Citizens Buy the Loeser Place East of the City.

C. A. Payne as agent for A. Loeser, closed a contract on Monday morning for the sale of the Loeser place on the Leitchfield road. It has been bought by E. A. Watts for a company of local colored men who have organized as a cemetery company. The land is located on a height beyond the Chautauqua grounds and it is favorably situated for the purpose intended. The stock company has already been organized and \$3,000 has been raised for the purpose of improving the grounds. This work will be undertaken at once and it is claimed that the place will be made one of the most attractive for colored people in the state. The Colored population of Owensboro is large and comparatively prosperous and has felt, for several years, the need of a better and more attractive cemetery than the one which they now use which is east of Elmwood.

Owensboro Messenger, 31 January 1906, p5

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. [ed. note – The Owensboro Messenger of 29 September 1905, p.5, reported that Joe E. Loeser was taxed on 16 acres.]

The previous burial location for the colored population referred to was the Owensboro City Cemetery that was adjacent to Elmwood Cemetery on its east border. The death certificate of Joseph E. Weaver (1863-1914), one of the Greenwood Cemetery stockholders, listed his burial place as the “city graveyard.” In two articles upon the execution of Roy Green it was recorded that he “will be buried in the colored cemetery adjoining Elmwood” (“Hundreds of People View the Remains”, Owensboro Messenger, 21

February 1905, p7) and “the body was buried in Potter’s field adjoining Elmwood” (“Roy Green’s Funeral”, Owensboro Messenger, 21 February 1905, p.7).

A dedication day for Greenwood Cemetery was held at the Daviess County Fair Ground on 15 June 1907:

Owensboro Inquirer, 9 June 1907, p.14:



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 [ed. 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, on the Leitchfield Road, for the new cemetery was finalized on 20 February 1906 (Daviess County Deed Book 80, pp571-572). The land was purchased from E. W. Moore for the price of \$3,000; Mrs. Bertha Loeser et al in 1906 had transferred the property to E. W. Moore (Daviess County deed book 80, p386). A lien on the land was released on 19 November 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 majority were buried outside of Daviess County. 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 August 1853 died 13 January 1905, wife of Charles Lewis Jones) and Benedict A. Hayden (born 12 February 1828 died 13 August 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 February 1976 (Messenger-Inquirer, 15 Feb 1976, p2D).

In its early years the cemetery had a caretaker living on the grounds. In 1910 Aquilla Richardson (1875-1929) was sexton of the cemetery ("Ghouls Visit Negro Cemetery", Owensboro Messenger, 1 June 1910, p4), Marshall Davis (1878-1918), one of the original stockholders was an early caretaker (Owensboro City Directory, 1916, p147). The Owensboro Messenger on 9 November 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" ("House Burns", Owensboro Messenger, 9 Nov 1937, p.2). During 1940-1950 Augustus 'Gus' Green (1884-1954) was sexton-caretaker at Greenwood

Cemetery, where he resided (Daviness County, KY 1940 census, p678B and “Polk’s Owensboro City Directory”, 1950, p121).

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 1966 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 1966, 1979, 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992 (Messenger-Inquirer: “Court Considers Idea Of Cleaning Negro Cemetery”, 7 June 1966 p10A; “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 (Daviness 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 February 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 currently available thru 1967. 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 other sources – listing of monuments found in the cemetery; all deaths in Daviess county reported in the Kentucky death certificates 1911-1967; obituaries from the Owensboro newspaper that had been randomly listed by the Daviess County Public Library’s Kentucky Room staff; keyword search for “Greenwood” was extensively utilized in search of the Owensboro newspapers on Newspaper.com; an inventory of Veterans’ graves for Daviess County compiled by the W. P. A. between 1939-1941; and other Internet databases. With these additions the database of burials at Greenwood Cemetery now has listed 2,390 individuals (as of October 2024). This list is not complete, but it is a far more complete record than what had existed. The number of Greenwood burials would also be added to when one considers the following:

- no Daviess county death records for the years of 1906-1910 were recorded
- 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
- the Kentucky death certificates for years subsequent to 1967 are not currently accessible for reviewing

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 February 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.

One hundred and thirteen veterans have been documented as being buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Of these 65 have a monument on their grave and 48 others are interred in unmarked graves. The veterans saw service in the Civil War – 7 (6 USA & 1 CSA); Spanish American War – 2; World War 1 – 75; World War 2 – 27; and Korean War – 2. The Civil War veterans were Richard Hardesty (1844-1923), Lewis Jones (c1843-1932), Thomas Negley (?-1934), Henry Nourse (1831-1920), George W. Robertson (1849-1919), Henry Michion Taylor (1833-1905/10), and Robert Woodard (1839-1917).

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 October 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 December 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 1st an undertaking establishment in Owensboro at Fourth & St. Ann Streets. The 1903-04 Owensboro City Directory shows John A. Agnew, undertaker, 200 W. 4th, 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.”

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 15 March 1934 p7
J. A. Agnew, Well Known Negro Undertaker, Dies

John Abner Agnew, well known negro undertaker of Owensboro for the last thirty years, died at 4 o'clock Wednesday morning at his home in West Fourth street, after a lingering illness.

"Doctor" Agnew, by which term he was generally known, was born in Huntington, West Virginia. He was educated for the profession, of dentistry at McHarry Medical college, Nashville. He practiced his profession in Louisville and was the first negro dentist to practice in Kentucky. Coming to Owensboro he quit the dental profession and studied embalming. He was prominent in negro fraternities and active in all civic affairs toward the advancement of his race.

In 1906 he was married to Nannie P Wheatley, who died several years ago. He is survived by two daughters, Amelia and Inez Agnew, and one son, Charles Agnew, all of Owensboro. A brother Dr. C. L. Agnew, of Aurora, Ill., also survives. For the past ten years he has been senior member of the firm of Agnew & Wheatley undertakers.

The funeral will be conducted from the Fourth Street Baptist church at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon by the Rev. E. H. Smith, pastor.

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. 7th. 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).

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 3 May 1971, pp1A & 2A

Samuel Barker, Teacher For 50 Years, Succumbs

Samuel Barker, 93, 07 710 Center St., who for 50 years taught in the Owensboro City School system, died Sunday at the Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital after a long illness.

Born in Christian County April 21, 1878, he had lived in Owensboro-most of his life and was a member of the Fourth Street Baptist Church and the UBF Lodge.

He had been principal of Western High School for 15 years and had taught at the Dunbar Elementary School and the Western Kentucky Industrial College.



Samuel Barker

He was the former secretary-treasurer of the Green River Valley District Association, former president of the Green River Valley Sunday School and BTU Convention, secretary of the Green River Valley Baptist Association and superintendent, of the Fourth Street Baptist Church Sunday School.

Survivors include a foster son, Benjamin F. Hyde, Cleveland, Ohio; eight daughters, Mrs. Florence Perkins, Mrs. Fannie Jackson, Mrs. Floyd McFarland, Mrs. Margaret Kelly, all of Owensboro, Mrs. Imogene Morrow and Mrs. Dorothy Phillips, of Muncie, Ind., Mrs. Roberta Woodard of Elkhart., Ind., and Miss Marie Barker, Cleveland, Ohio; and a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Fourth Street Baptist Church by the Rev. W. R. Brown, pastor. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery.

The body is at the Young Funeral Home, where friends may call after noon Tuesday.

Barnett, Finess E., 2 shares. Born 15 April 1863 Ohio County, KY. Died 25 February 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; his obituary mistakenly reported he was buried Greenwood Cemetery). He married Mrs. Beatrice A. "Bee" (Fields) Smith in Daviess County on 23 December 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.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 26 Feb 1950, p4B
Negro Deaths
Finis E. Barnett

Finis E. Barnett, formerly of Owensboro, died at 11:15 a. m. Saturday, in the General hospital, Louisville.

Barnett was a carpenter and lived in Owensboro for 70 years, before moving to Louisville. He was a member of the Asbury M. E. church, and the UBF Lodge No. 7 for the last 65 years.

He had made his home with his niece and nephew, John and Ora Lee Taylor, 2124 West Walnut street. Louisville, two other nieces are Ethel Paul of Louisville, and Essie Shultz, Owensboro.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p. m. Tuesday in the Asbury M. E. church, conducted by the Rev. F. F. McCallum, pastor. Burial will be in Greenwood cemetery. Members of the UBF Lodge No. 7, will I serve as pallbearers.

The body Is at the Agnew and Wheatley Funeral home, here.

Barrett, Owen G. K., 4 shares. Born 12 August 1849 Frankfort, KY. Died 16 December 1936 Chicago, IL. Married Isabelle Lindsey 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. He was buried at Worth in Cook County, IL

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. 2nd. 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.

Courier Journal, Louisville, KY, Thursday, 13 April 1939, p1B
Storekeeper-Gauger Dies.

Funeral services for George W. Berry, 65, Negro, one of the oldest Federal storekeeper-gaugers in Kentucky in point of service, who died Tuesday at his residence, 1117 W. Chestnut, will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at the home. Burial will be in Louisville Cemetery.

Bradshaw, Lee, 3 shares. Born 15 January 1860 KY; son of Clora. Died 29 October 1940 Terre Haute, IN. Buried Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro (no monument found). Married Julia Lee in Daviess County, KY on 16 September 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.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday 1 November 1940, p2
Negro Deaths
Lee Bradshaw

Lee Bradshaw, 79, colored, a former employe of the Owensboro Ice. company, died at the home of his daughter, Eloise Carter in Terre Haute Ind., Tuesday. Surviving are three daughters, Eloise Carter, Lucy Harrison, Dora Rates, five sons, Richard, Glenn, Dennis, Carl and Alfred

Bradshaw. The body was brought to Owensboro and taken to the Agnew and Wheatly funeral where it will remain until the funeral which will be held at the Fourth Street Baptist church at 2 p.m. today, by the Rev. C. C. Sykes, pastor. Brial will be in Greenwood cemetery.

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.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 23 April 1912, p7
Poplar Negro Dies.

Frank Claybrook, colored, died of peritonitis at 9 o'clock Sunday morning, after a long illness. Claybrook for a number of years was head waiter at the Rudd house hotel, and his politeness and his willingness for work, made him very popular, not only by the management of the hotel, but by the patrons as well. The funeral will be conducted from the Fourth-street Baptist church this afternoon.

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. 8th. The 1916 Owensboro Directory shows that he was an employee of Greenwood Cemetery and resided on the Leitchfield Road. His will stated he had no children. He left his estate to his wife, Ida Belle (Daviess County, KY Will Book E, p627).

Edwards, William Henry, 1 share. Born 10 August 1857 Owensboro, KY; son of Del Sawyer & Ellen McFarland. He had been a slave in the John H. McFarland family. Died 5 October 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)

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 29 May 1955, p12D

Owensboro Man Born Into Slavery

Recalls Coming of Union Cavalry

By Margaret Morgan

One of Owensboro's last links with the Civil War is William Henry Edwards who was born a slave in Owensboro 98 years ago.

The fact that he has attained this advanced age is amazing enough in itself. But yet more remarkable to his many friends in Daviess County is the fact that a week ago last night he was taken to Our Lady of Mercy Hospital as a surgical case in a critical condition. Doctors debated operating, and decided that although Henry would have only about one chance in ten of living if they did operate, he had no chance of living until morning if they did not.

He was given a local anesthesia and he talked to the doctors throughout the operation. He was given neither glucose nor blood transfusion.

He told the doctors that there had to be a first time for everything, and he bet he was the first 98 year-old man on which they'd ever operated.

That was a week ago. As this was being written, the patient was walking about over the hospital, the pet of the staff and of the other patients. His perseverance seems to bear out a statement of one of his daughters who said, "Papa always was stubborn!"

Henry was born a slave to the McFarland family here. He vaguely remembers Union soldiers going through Owensboro. History shows that they were troops of Gen. T. J. Crittenden encamped between Main Street and the Field Packing Co.

But Henry doesn't remember that much about them. He does, however, recall that he was hulling walnuts in the yard when a cavalry unit wandered past his home. One of the soldiers asked him if the walnuts were good. Henry says he told them they would be if they were ripe, but green as they were they would give a fellow a stomach ache. But the soldiers wanted some walnuts and Henry gave them to them. He'll never know whether his part of the war effort was to make some Union soldiers sick.

With the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation the slaves were freed, and Henry's master gave his mother a sow and seven pigs, and two silver spoons. Later his mother gave Henry one of the spoons and his sister the other. Henry had his spoon made into an intricate ring which he treasures highly as a reminder of his mother and of slavery.

He told some of his fellow patients at the hospital this last week that one way you look at it, emancipation wasn't so good. "I never had to work while slavery existed," he said, "then Mr. Lincoln came along and declared the Emancipation Proclamation, and I've been working ever since!"

Henry neglected to tell his listeners that at the end of slavery he was only five years of age.

Owensboro was really a farm community in Henry's youth, he recalls. Frederica Street was a plank road. Triplett Street was Hartford Road. There was a cornfield around the courthouse. When he bought ground where Sweeney Street is now, and built there, his was the only house in the area. A path led from his home to the courthouse. There were no streets anywhere.

Henry was a janitor at Settle Memorial Methodist Church for half a century until his retirement almost 30 years ago. After that his son, Essex Edwards, took Henry's place until his death two years ago. Essex would be 72 if he were living now. Henry has another son, Burrell, who at 70 is retired after years of work with Texas Gas Transmission Corp. and Western Kentucky Gas Co. Henry's two daughters are Anna and Emma. The latter is principal of Paul Dunbar School.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 6 October 1960, p8A

William Henry Edwards, Former Slave 103, Dies In Owensboro
William Henry Edwards, a 103- year-old former slave, and father of the Dunbar School principal, died at his home at 1509 Sweeney St. here yesterday. Born on August 10, 1857, Edwards, , known as "Uncle Henry," had been a slave in the John H. McFarland family.

Edwards was the sexton of the Settle Memorial Methodist Church for 50 years. He was the last surviving charter member of the Sweeney Street Baptist Church.

Surviving are two daughters, Emma E. Edwards, principal of Dunbar School, and Anna B. Edwards, both of Owensboro; one son, Burrell Edwards, Owensboro.

The body will be taken to the residence tonight where funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. Benjamin Green, Hopkinsville, at 2:30 p.m. Friday. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery. Griffith Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Fisher, Thomas Pomp, 1 share. Born 24 December 1858 Henderson, KY; son of Lee & Amelia (Cosby) Fisher. Died 28 January 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 December 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.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 29 January 1950, p4A

Negro Deaths
Thomas P. Fisher

Thomas P. Fisher, 91, well known colored citizen of Owensboro, died at his home at 12:45 p.m. Saturday, following an illness of one week.

He was born in Henderson, but had lived in Owensboro for the last 50 years. He was a member of the Center Street Baptist church which he served as a deacon, and a member of the United Brothers of Friendship lodge.

For many years he was in the employ of the Birk-Thornton grocery, and later custodian of the Messenger building, City hall, and the Walnut Street Baptist church. He retired about six years ago.

Surviving are one daughter, Mary Lee Fisher, one brother, Samuel Fisher, of Henderson, and a niece, Mary A. Torain.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed. The United Brothers of Friendship lodge will have charge of services at the grave.

Foston, Donald Carlos, 1 share. Born 12 October 1872 KY; son of Dave & Elsa Bell (Wells) Foston. Died 10 January 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. 5th. 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.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 12 January 1933, p10

Carlos Foston, Respected Negro, Here, Dies Suddenly

Carlos Foster [sic], a respected negro citizen, porter for Thomas Bader for a number of years, died suddenly Tuesday morning of apoplexy. He is survived by his wife, Mary Belle, the maid at Anderson store, and a son and two daughters. The funeral will be conducted from Fourth Street Baptist church Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. E. W. Smith officiating.

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. At the time of his wife, Edith's, death in 1944 he was a resident of New York City.

Gines, William, 4 shares. Born about 1870 KY; son of William & Lucy Gines. Died 2 August 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 November 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 January 1890 in Daviess County, KY and after her death in 1919 he married Sallie Couch on 23 December 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.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 14 March 1928, p4

Wm. F. Griffith, Colored, Dies At Age of 65 Years

William F. Griffith, 65, colored, for the last thirty years engaged as stove repair and setup man for the Guenther Hardware company, died at 10:20 o'clock Monday night at his home, 1515 Moseley street, after a long illness of complications. Griffith, by his courteous and faithful service had made for himself a wide circle of friends amongst white people, and was universally respected by his own people. He is survived by his widow and one daughter and four sons, also a brother and many relatives locally. Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock this afternoon from the Fourth Street Baptist church, of which he had long been an active member, the pastor, the Rev. E. H. Smith, in charge. Burial will be in Greenwood cemetery.

Guthrie, Alfred Omega, 1 share. Born 2 May 1872 Gallia County, Ohio to William Guthrie & Nancy Stewart. 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. He died 26 April 1952, Kansas City, Jackson County, MO. He was buried at the United American Cemetery at Madisonville, Hamilton County, Ohio.



Alfred O. Guthrie

Cincinnati Enquirer, Cincinnati, OH, Thursday, 1 May 1952, p19

GUTHRIE, Alfred O., husband of the late Rebecca Friason, father of Mrs. Elsie Travis. brother of Mr. Jerry Guthrie, at Kansas City, Mo., Saturday, April 26, 1952. Funeral Friday, May 2, 1 P.M. at Houston & Sons funeral home, 2813 Gilbert Ave. Visitation after 6 P.M. Thursday.

Helm, Alfred Ross, 1 share. Born 9 September 1876 Owensboro, KY; son of Henry Clay Helm & Ann D. Smith. Died 22 January 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. 4th. 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.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 24 January 1923, p5

ALFRED HELM. NEGRO.

DIES IN INDIANAPOLIS

The remains of Alfred Helm, negro, 45 who died in Indianapolis, the] first of the week, arrived in Owensboro last night and were taken to the home of his sister, Virginia Wickliffe. The funeral will be conducted from St. Paul's A.M. church, at 2 o'clock this afternoon, Rev. G. A. McKinney, pastor, having charge of the services.

Hurt, Rev. Allen Daniel, 4 shares. He was born in Tennessee on 9 April 1862. He was the son of Frank Hurt. 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. 4th Street. He does not appear in subsequent directories or censuses of Owensboro. In 1914 he was superintendent of Missions of the state of Tennessee. He died 22 January 1922 in Nashville, TN, where he was buried in the Mount Ararat Cemetery.

The Tennessean, Nashville, TN, Tuesday 24 January 1922, p12

HURT – Sunday, January 22, 1922, at his residence, 629 Wetmore street, Rev. Allen Daniel Hurt. Survived by wife. Mrs. Elizabeth Hurt: daughters, Mrs. Bessie Hurt Nesbit, Miss Odessa V. L. Hurt: sons, Pitsy Leo and H. Lofton Hurt; sister, Mrs. Mattie Britt, of Hickman, Ky.; brother, Charles Hurt, of Caruthersville, Mo. Funeral services Wednesday, January 25, 1922, at 1:30 o'clock p.m. from First Baptist Church, Eighth avenue, north, conducted by the pastor, Rev. S. L. McDowell, and others. Ritualistic services will be conducted under the

auspices of East Star Lodge No. 20, A. F. and A. M. The following friends will serve as pallbearers: Active- Officers of East Star Lodge No. 20, A. F. and A. M: honorary- Dr. A. M. Townsend, Revs. E. M. Lawrence, E. M. Seymour, W. S. Ellington, S. A. Owen, Wm. Haynes, S. M. Jackson, E. W. D. Isaacs. Interment in Mt. Ararat. W. H. McGavock in charge

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.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 28 March 1934,p2

James Jewell, Respected Negro, Taken By Death

James J. Jewell, respected negro of Owensboro, died at 7 o'clock Tuesday morning at his home, 730 Breckinridge street, after a short illness of pneumonia.

Jewell had for the last several years been janitor of the Owensboro City hospital. For many years he was in the employ of Wile Brothers Clothing firm.

He is survived by his widow, Cordelia Jewell, and two stepdaughters.

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 1 April 1872 Nebo, Hopkins County, KY; son of William & Florence (Woolfolk) 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. 4th. 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.

Evansville Press, Evansville, IN, Monday, 10 June 1947, p12

NEGRO DEATHS

Taylor M. Loving, 70, of 785 S. Governor-st. died Sunday. The body is in Gaines Funeral Home,

Survivors are: wife, Ethel, Detroit, Mich.; daughters, Mrs. Georgia Benson and Misses Leonora and Laura Loving, Evansville; brother, Eugene, Evansville; nieces and nephews.

Morton, James A., "Bud", 1 share. Born 26 September 1859 Hancock County, KY; son of James & Sallie A. (Newton) Morton. Died 20 September 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 2 January 1927 Columbia, Maury County, TN. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Columbia, TN. . He was listed with his parents in the 1880 census of Hopkins County, KY. He was teaching in Erie, Pennsylvania at the time of the 1900 Federal Census; he was then single. Married Emma Harriet Stockdale on 8 June 1904 in Jefferson County, KY. 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, KY.

The Tennessean, Nashville, TN, Tuesday, 4 January 1927, p.5

ORTON-Sunday afternoon, Jan. 2, 1927, at his home, 405 Church Ave., Columbia, Tenn. The Rev. W. C. Orton, age 52 years, survived by his wife, Mrs. W. C. Orton, two sons Claud Argustine and Arcenta Orton, one daughter, Gwendolyn Orton, two brothers, S. G. Orton and J. M. Orton both of Ky., three sisters, Mrs. Verda McCan, Mrs. Hazel Marks and Mrs. Cornelia Shelton all of Ky., and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn their loss. Funeral services will be held Tuesday evening, Jan. 4, 1927, at St. Paul A. M. E. church, Columbia, Tenn., of which he was pastor at 8 p.m., also at Bethel A. M. E. church Nashville, Tenn., Wednesday, Jan. 5, 1927, at eleven o'clock a. m. Rites will be said by Bishop Ransom of the 14th Episcopal district of the A. M. E. church, assisted by Rev. M. A. Hunter, pastor of Bethel A. M. E. church, Nashville and Rev. A. J. James, pastor of the First Baptist church, Columbia, Tenn. For further information call Ransom and Morris, Phone 6-0660. Interment at Greenwood cemetery.

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. William H. Pope was residing in Hopkinsville, Christian County, 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.



William Henry Pope

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. 5th Street. In 1911 he was operating a grocery at 808 W. 5th 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 February 1918. They continued to reside at her home at 808 W. 5th. 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 December 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 August 1957 Louisville, KY, where he was buried in the Louisville Cemetery. He married Bertha Ann Sandusky on 25 January 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. His wife, Bertha, and son, Samuel, were buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro in 1940 & 1943.

Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, Sunday, 18 August 1957, p31A

ROBERT A. SAULSBERRY

Robert A. Saulsberry, a retired insurance agent, died at 2 p.m. yesterday in General Hospital. Saulsberry, 76, lived at 721 S. 21st. He was a native of Owensboro.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Fannie Saulsberry; son, Charles W. Saulsberry, Jackson, Miss., and a sister, Mrs. Sallie Fields, Muncie, Ind.

The funeral will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at West Chestnut Street Baptist Church. Burial will be in Louisville Cemetery. The body is at Gilbert Funeral Home, 1912 W. Magazine

Turner, George W., 1 share. The 1899-1900 Owensboro City Directory lists George W. Turner, brick molder, residence 1207 Harriett Street (now West 7th 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. He appears to have died during 1906-1907. Nannie Turner, "widow of George", appears in the 1907 Owensboro Directory.

Varian, Dr. Richard L., 1 share. Born October 1879 Owensboro, KY; son of Frank Varian & Mariah Jackson. Died between 1907-1909. His parents were married in Daviess County, KY on 10 February 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. Dr. Varian was one of two graduates of the Owensboro colored high school in 1898. He was attending Mehane Medical College in Nashville, TN in 1901.

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 was nine

years old at the time of the 1870 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. He married Emma Weaver on 28 Sep 1887 in Owensboro and second Ellen (Hartwell) Wilhoyte 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 Green, 3 shares. Born 27 September 1868 Baltimore, Maryland; son of Perry G. Walker & Mary E. Snowden. Died 26 May 1924 Owensboro, KY (death certificate 1924 - #11161). Buried Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. He is listed with his parents in the 1870 census of Frederick County, MD and in the 1880 census of Alexandria, VA. On 23 January 1894 he was granted a license to practice medicine in the state of Kentucky (Daviess 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 48th 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, dedicated on 1 September 1950, was named in his honor.

Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 26 May 1924, p10

DR. P. G. WALKER DIES SUDDENLY

Colored Physician Answers Last Call

Dr. P. G. Walker, colored, 58, dropped dead at 9:30 this morning in front of the Stark Motors company on Fourth street, from heart failure. He had lived in Owensboro for 22 years, coming here from his home in Westminster, Maryland. Dr. Walker was a graduate in medicine of the Howard university, Washington, D. C. completing his studies there in 1891. He practiced his profession at various locations until the Spanish-American war when he volunteered and was assigned to duty in the Philippines, where he served in the medical corps, with Dr. R. F. White,

West Fifth street, this city. for two years. He came to Owensboro in 1902 and has practiced his profession with much success.

For the last eight years Dr. Walker has served as city physician for colored people, and has cooperated in every way in bringing to the people of his race preventive medicine and bettering their conditions physically and otherwise. He was a good citizen and esteemed by the citizens of Owensboro, among whom he had a wide acquaintance, both white and colored. He was greatly admired for his devotion to his people throughout the entire time he had lived in the city.

Surviving are two sisters living at a distance and a nephew who visited him last Wednesday and was intending to return to his home in Washington Sunday, but Dr. Walker prevailed upon him to wait over until today. He was removed from the scene of his death to the undertaking establishment of R. F. Agnew, West Fourth street and later removed to his home, 411 Poplar street. He was a member of the colored Masons, United Brothers of Friendship, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and a popular member of the Ashbury M. E. church. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

Watts, Edward Arnold, 40 shares. Born May 1870 in Tennessee. He married Artie E. Buckner on 17 July 1895 in Owensboro, KY. On 3 February 1894 E. A. Watts was appointed a Notary Public in Daviess County, KY (Daviess 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. 3rd. By 1925 he was residing in Manhattan in New York City, where he was counted in the 1930, 1940 and 1950 federal censuses. In 1927 he was an employee of the U.S. postal service. The 1930 and 1940 censuses gave his profession as lawyer. His mother-in-law, Jane (Miller) Buckner, widow of Alfred, died in Owensboro on 14 January 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 (Daviess County Deed Book 175, p279). Edward A. Watts, 85, died on 22 March 1956 in Manhattan, New York City. His wife, Artye Watts, died in Manhattan on 2 June 1963. They were the parents of John, Edward A., Jr. and Katherine Watts.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 15 July 1945, p8A

EX-OWENSBORO NEGRO GETS HIGH POSITION

Edward A Watts, former Owensboro resident who for more than twenty years was in the revenue service here and has since practiced law

in New York City, was last week named the Negro member of the labor relations board of the state of New York by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. His mother-in-law Jane Buckner, 93 years old, lives at 613 West Third street, Owensboro. Watts has several times visited here since locating in New York City.

Weaver, Joseph E., "Joe", 3 shares. Born 5 July 1863 Daviess County, KY; son of Tip Weaver & Caroline Anderson. Died 3 February 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 February 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."

Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 5 February 1914, p6
WELL KNOWN NEGRO DEAD

Joe Weaver, Of Ice Cream Fame, Has A Very Large Funeral

Joe Weaver, a well known colored citizen, died at his home on Hathaway street, Tuesday morning after an illness lasting for several days. Weaver was a highly respected negro, and was well thought of by many of the business men of the city. 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. Weaver was buried this afternoon, and his funeral was one of the largest of his race that has been held in Owensboro for many years.

White, Randolph Franklin, D.D., 1 share. Born 25 June 1870 Warrington, Florida; son of Moses & Mercy White. Died 1 January 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 48th Infantry and was a hospital steward. He was reported to be single and a resident of Lexington, KY. He served with Dr. Perry Green Walker in the Philippines and was listed immediately after him in the 1900 census, they both located in Owensboro during 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. 5th and residing the same. He is last found in the Owensboro Directories in 1925; he was then living at 812 W. 5th. 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.



Randolph F. White

Wright, Peyton, 1 share. Born January 1854 KY. Died in 1907 in Daviess County, KY. Married Cattie Sherman on 6 October 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.



Articles and documents on Greenwood Cemetery

Daviess County Corporation Record Book 2, pp183-184:

Know all men by these presents: That we the undersigned do hereby associate ourselves together as a body corporate under and by virtue of the laws of the state of Kentucky and for that purpose do adopt the following Articles of Incorporation, to-wit:

1. The name of this Corporation shall be the "Greenwood Cemetery Association" and by said name it shall be known and shall have power to adopt and use a corporate seal to sue and be sued to make contracts, to pledge and mortgage its

- property real and personal, to secure the fulfillments of its contracts and to exercise, subject to law, such powers as are usual to such Corporations.
2. The principal place of business of said Corporation shall be Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky.
 3. The nature of the business and the objects and purposes proposed to be transacted, promoted or carried on shall be that of conducting and operating a cemetery or burial ground by buying, improving and selling real estate and dividing it up into small lots upon which dead persons may be buried. It shall have the power to buy, own, sell or lease such real or personal property as may be necessary for the proper prosecution of its business and shall have all rights and powers necessary or incident to the development and carrying on of the business herein stated.
 4. The amount of Capital stock of this corporation shall be \$4000.00 divided into 160 shares of \$25.00 each which Capital stock shall be subscribed and paid in such amounts and at such times as the directors may require.
 5. The names and places of each of the stock holders of this corporation and the number of shares subscribed by each is as follows:

E. A. Watts	Owensboro, Ky.	40	Shares.
P. G. Walker	"	3	"
Peyton Wright	"	1	"
Lee Bradshaw	"	3	"
J. A. Morton	"	1	"
S. L. Barker	"	1	"
Marshall Davis	"	1	"
Joe Weaver	"	3	"
T. N. Richardson	"	1	"
Thos. P. Fisher	"	1	"
P. 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	"
R. L. Varian	"	1	"
R. F. White	"	1	"
Wm. C. Orton	"	1	"
J. W. Gilbert	"	1	"
G. W. Berry	"	3	"
Frank Claybrooks	"	1	"
William Lewis	"	1	"
O. G. K. Barrett	"	4	"
W. H. Edwards	"	1	"
Geo. W. Turner	"	1	"
A. O. Guthrie	"	1	"

Wm. Gines	"	4	"
A. D. Hurt	"	4	"
W. H. Pope	"	4	"
J. A. Agnew	"	3	"
D. A. Valentine	"	1	"

6. This Corporation shall commence business on the ___ day of Feb. 1906 and shall continue in business for 50 years.
7. The affairs of this Corporation shall be conducted by a board of directors. The directors shall continue in office for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. The annual meeting of the stock-holders of the Corporation shall be held at the office of the Company beginning with Feby. 19, 1906, at which time and place the directors shall be elected. The officers of the Corporation shall be a president, Vice president, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected as soon as practicable after the annual meeting of the stock-holders and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.
8. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability which this Corporation may incur shall not exceed \$3000.00
9. The private property of the stock-holders shall not be subject to the payment of Corporate debts. In witness whereof the several incorporators above named have signed their names this 19th day of Feb., 1906.

E. A. Watts,	Peyton Wright,
O. G. K. Barrett,	Wm. C. Orton,
S. L. Barker,	P. G. Walker,
F. E. Barnett,	Marshal Davis,
Robt. Roan,	D. C. Foston,
T. N. Richardson,	W. F. Griffith,
A. D. Hurt,	J. A. Agnew,
B. F. Stone,	Frank Claybrooks,
Wm. Gines,	A. O. Guthrie,
R. L. Vairin,	G. W. Berry.

State of Kentucky,
County of Daviess.

I, R. T. Berry, Notary Public, in and for the aforesaid County and State do certify that these Articles of incorporation were before me this day duly acknowledged by these parties to be their act and deed. Whereunto I have this the 19 day of Feb., 1906, set my hand and seal.

Robert T. Berry, N. P. D. C. (SEAL)

My commission expires 1910.

State of Kentucky,
Daviess County, Sct.

And on this day the same was lodged and together with this and the foregoing certificate duly recorded in my office. Witness my hand this 19th day of February, 1906.

E. P. Taylor, Clerk.



Daviess County, KY Deed Book 80, pp571-572:

This died between E. W. Moore (Single) of Daviess County, Ky., of the first part and Greenwood Cemetery Association of same County and State of the second part,

Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part in consideration of \$3000.00 three thousand dollars, one thousand dollars cash in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and two thousand dollars to be paid one day after date for which the said parties of second part by their President have this day executed and delivered to party of the first part their note, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby sell, grant and convey to the party of the second part, their heirs and assigns the following described property, viz:

Located about 1/2 mile East from the City of Owensboro, Ky on the Leitchfield Road 16 acre of land a part of a 25 3/4 acre lot, the 25 3/4 acre lot of land is described as follows: Beginning at a stake in the south margin of the Leitchfield Road opposite the south west corner the Hebrew Cemetery lot, thence with the said line N. 53 W. 110 poles to a stake or stone corner to the Howard Hathway line with same S. 30 1/2 W. 62 poles to a stake in the Leitchfield Road thence S. 70 E. 49 1/2 poles to a stake thence N. 46 E. 8 poles to a stake thence S. 77 E. 52 1/2 poles to a stake in the Leitchfield Road thence S. 86 E. 9 poles to the point of beginning, but out of this boundary is excepted 9 3/4 acres which was conveyed by Henry C. Kerr and wife to Austin Montgomery by deed of record in the Davies County Court Clerk's Office. in deed book "Z" page 551. The tract of land herein conveyed is the same conveyed party of the first part by Mrs. Bertha Loeser etc., by deed recorded in deed book 80 page 396 of the Daviess County Court Clerk's Office.

The parties of the second part agree that they shall not use as a Cemetery more than two acres of the land heretofore conveyed until the deferred payment herein described is fully satisfied.

A lien is retained on the land herein conveyed to secure the unpaid purchase money. To have and to hold the same with all the appurtenances thereon, to the second party their heirs and assigns forever, with covenant of 'General Warranty.'

In testimony whereof, witness our signature this 20th day of Feb. 1906.

E. W. Moore.

State of Kentucky,
Daviess County, Sct.

I, E. P. Taylor, Clerk of the County aforesaid, do certify that the foregoing deed was on the 20th day of Feb. 1906 before me duly acknowledged E. W. Moore the grantor thereto to be his act and deed, and on this day the same was lodged and together with this certificate duly recorded in my office. -.

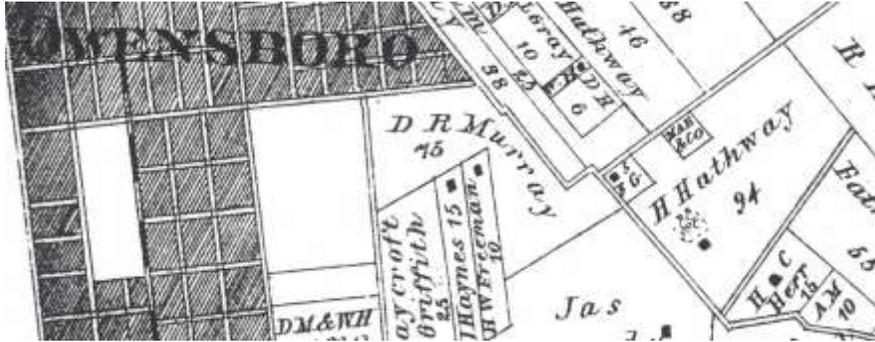
Witness my hand, this 19th day of April, 1906.

E. P. Taylor, Clerk.

By Jas. H. Taylor, D. C.



An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY., 1876, p38:



Henry Clay Herr (1836-1894) in 1876 owned tract of 16 acres (on above plat labeled in the lower right corner - H. C. Herr, 15 acres); in 1906 the tract became the site of Greenwood Cemetery; Herr's tract was bounded by Howard Hathway (northwest) & Austin Montgomery (southeast).



Map of Owensboro, 1987



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 23 July 1925, p5:

NEGRO BALL PLAYER DIES.

Felix Wallace, 44, Owensboro negro, now owner and manager of the St. Louis Giants ball team, died his home in St. Louis Sunday. His body was shipped to Owensboro and funeral will be conducted from the Center street Baptist church at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. Interment will be in Greenwood cemetery.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 9 November 1937, p2:

House Burns

Home of Greenwood Cemetery Caretaker Leveled By Fire

A small house in Greenwood cemetery, on the Leitchfield road, was burned to the ground Sunday morning by a fire that Chief E. E. Cureton, of the e city fire department, said was caused by a defective flue. The house was occupied by Samuel Young, caretaker of the cemetery.

Firemen went to the scene of the fire, even though it is outside the city and used fifty gallons of chemicals saving small buildings from destruction. The house was leveled before the firemen arrived. Another run was made by firemen Sunday at 10 p. m., when leaves in a gutter in Griffith avenue ignited.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 7 June 1966, p10A:

Court Considers Idea Of Cleaning Negro Cemetery

A clean-up and beautification project for Greenwood Cemetery was proposed to the fiscal court Tuesday

The proposal was offered by Landon Wills, deputy director of the Owensboro Area Economic Opportunity Council. He said the federal government would pay for 90 per cent of the cost if the county agreed to put up 10 per cent, either in cash or in materials.

The cemetery for colored people was established in 1906 by the United Brothers of Friendship. It covers 16 acres on the east side of Leitchfield Road across from 18th Street.

Wills said an application for the project would have to be filed by June 30. The court said it would listen to him again after it learns whether county funds can legally be spent for an operation like this.

The court also suggested that Wills look into the possibility of federal aid on such projects as ditch cleaning and cutting weeds and bushes along rights-of-way on county roads. Wills said he would.

Wills, on leave as editor of the McLean County News, said the project essentially is to give some chronically unemployed people some work.

He said the county might be able to furnish new entrance| and exit gates and put some rock on the road within the burial ground. Wills said arrangements have been made for the cemetery's upkeep once it is cleaned up and restored.

Judge Pat Tanner showed interest in the project. He said it is his understanding that the cemetery is often used by thieves who cache their loot there and then pick it up when search pressure eases.

John Haynes, a funeral director, said there is enough space in the cemetery to take care of funerals for at least 50 years.

The court indicated it might furnish 10 per cent of the cost but did not wish to assume any of the responsibilities for administration of the program, such as making out the payroll.

The cemetery lies in county territory.

When Wills sat down, Judge Tanner announced, "The Great Society has approached us."



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 18 September 1966, p7C:

Birdie's Breezy Bits

By L. D. "Birdie" Gasser, Messenger-Inquirer

Who is the caretaker at Greenwood Cemetery? From what Tom Moorman writes, it seems that the cemetery has none. A I short note to the Bits from Tom follows:

Several months ago the City Fathers were going to see that the Greenwood Cemetery was cleaned up, however, nothing has been done about it.

The lots range from \$40 to \$60 each. It appears to me that the cemetery could be kept neater with some of this money. It is next to impossible to find your loved-ones' graves in the conditions that now exist. Surely, this has only been an over sight and these conditions can and will be remedied.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 25 May 1969, p9C:

Birdie's Breezy Bits

By L. D. "Birdie" Gasser, Messenger-Inquirer

A lot owner at Greenwood Cemetery located on Leitchfield Road, (Ky. 54) writes:

Does Greenwood Cemetery have a maintenance man on the job? If so, why is it that the cemetery is not kept clean of weeds and high grass, especially on graves?

I have loved ones buried there and when I die I expect to be laid to rest in Greenwood. Each year lot owners at Greenwood either have to see that the weeds are cut on their respective lots or do the mowing and cutting themselves.

Memorial Day is just around the corner. Thursday, May 30, and it is high time that Greenwood Cemetery was cleaned up for the occasion.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 4 October 1970, p1D:

Old Cemetery Finds Itself In 'Mainstream' After All

Greenwood Cemetery is beginning to look like a cemetery again.

The once beautiful, rolling cemetery at the edge of Owensboro along Ky. 54 had all but become abandoned to dense vines, briars and weeds. A passerby would have hardly guessed that the site was a cemetery. It looked more like an impenetrable jungle. Persons living nearby frequently complained of snakes.

Now Greenwood Cemetery, the resting place of so many from the Owensboro Negro community, is being cleaned off.

Nine workers working in a Department of Labor Operation Mainstream project administered by the Community Action Agency in Owensboro have been burning off and whacking away at the brush and snakes since July. The project is scheduled to wind up at the end of December.

Several slopes have been cleared off leaving the disarranged tombstones stark against burnt ashes. In the exposed areas the abuse that has befallen the cemetery is evident.

Beer cans and other debris were dumped indiscriminately near graves. Roots of the rampant plant life that had solidly blanketed the cemetery grounds had crept tenaciously into the caskets, causing them to collapse and leaving lines of shallow hollows through the grounds.

William Watson, president of the United Brothers Friendship Lodge No. 7 which owns most shares in the cemetery, said there are plans to landscape the cemetery after the brush has been cleared. The city has offered fill-in dirt to smooth off the grounds. Others hope that a masonry entrance can be built.

Many of those with family buried in the cemetery are concerned about the future of the cemetery. After the project is completed they want to insure that it doesn't revert to the condition it had fallen to.

More than simply cleaning up the cemetery, the project is slowly but perceptibly kindling a community spirit, and only a community spirit with a sense of pride and self-involvement can perpetuate the cemetery, feels Donald Owsley, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who has five generations of his family buried there.

Because of the bad conditions, burials in recent years have dwindled to about eight a year, Watson said. Most of these have been in a relatively newer section.

Because bushes and vines grew in close to roadways, hearses would have to drive in then back out onto the highway. Families couldn't find family plots. There was the recent story of the man who passed away in Louisville. His wife had died in 1959 and was buried at Greenwood Cemetery. The family tombstone recorded her birth and death and her husband's birth. He was to be placed beside her, but when he died the grave couldn't be found in the heavy growth, so he was buried in Louisville.

For several years a far slope of the cemetery was used as a city dump, but when it became evident that some people had been buried there, a law suit arose, the dumping stopped. Individuals, though, up to recently, have continued to throw trash in the weeds. It became a lovers' lane. Watson, using the meager funds of the board controlling the cemetery, had put up a gate, but this didn't deter despoilers.

William Weaver, a member of the cemetery board and now in his 80's, remembers that the cemetery was incorporated in 1906.

In those days of segregated cemeteries, it was a major and important undertaking for the Negro community.

The United Brothers Friendship Lodge holds most shares in the cemetery. The lodge's auxiliary has a few and so does Mt. Pisgah F&AM.

In the early part of the century families gathered frequently at the cemetery. There was the traditional attention to grave sites on Memorial Day.

It is hard to pinpoint the reasons why the cemetery slowly began to become run down, but it seems clear that it was a combination of a lack of interest especially among younger generations as older generations passed on, an increasing lack of funds for upkeep, the passing away of individual politically strong leaders like W. Stirman Wheatley in the 1940s, and some say frankly, mismanagement.

Miss Emma Edwards, retired school teacher who taught and was principal at Dunbar School for 50 years, shakes her head and says, "I didn't think things like that could happen in this country."

Her grandparents, aunts and uncles are buried at Greenwood Cemetery. She and others tried to locate the grave of Mary Harding, founder of the Mary Harding Home for aged and infirmed in Owensboro, but couldn't. They had wanted to place a monument in her memory.

Some of the first pioneering Negro family names are found in the cemetery – Agnew, Fisher, McFarland, Edwards, Howard, Claybrook, Wilhite, Rigley, Owsley, Locke, Haynes, Griffith, White, Bell and others. The uniformly-marked graves of men who died fighting for their country are there.

In the last decade, several efforts were made to clean up the cemetery, some fairly well organized. But after well-intentioned starts the task got to be too much and the projects abandoned.

Bill Munsell, executive director of the Community Action Agency, said that four years ago federal funds were sought that were being earmarked for projects like cemetery renovation.

Early this year, Mrs. Beverly Thruston, manpower coordinator of the agency, went to Lexington to appeal to representatives of the Department of Labor to set up an Operation Mainstream program.

This time it was approved. Using the agency's up-to-date file of hard core unemployed, the nine workers were chosen. The project has received help from the city and county and a number of businesses. A drug store donated a snake bite kit, which hasn't had to be used.

Watson said. "We're simply not going to let things get as bad as they were."

Suggestions were offered by several interviewed contacting owners of plots (if they can be determined since records have been lost I and emphasizing care of their plots, planning special ceremonies at the cemetery, yearly reminders of responsibilities, and perhaps, reorganizing management of the cemetery.



CLEAN UP CREW – Operation Mainstream workers clear off an area in Greenwood Cemetery where the brush has been burned off. When the workers started in July they faced growth that had the appearance of an impenetrable jungle.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 23 July 1971, p1B:

Metro Planning Board Official Explains Zoning Regulations

..... Mrs. Beverly Thruston said that the old Greenwood Cemetery on Highway 54 is overgrown again with weeds and other debris. She said that the OEO had used "Mainstream" funds to clear the cemetery about a year ago after signing an agreement with the UBF lodge to maintain it.

Don Owsley said part of the problem was that the cemetery is privately owned and that stock has been lost and records of ownership are unclear. He said he has been unsuccessful in organizing a board of directors meeting.

Mrs. Thruston said she would write the officers who signed the maintenance agreement and remind them of their promise.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 25 May 1979, p1A:



Greenwood oasis: While most of Greenwood Cemetery, Owensboro's old black burial ground, is overgrown with trees and brush, one grave is clean in preparation for Memorial Day. Walker Lyons of 1217 Center St. in Owensboro cleared the grave of his mother-in-law, Blanche Sutton. For more on the history of Greenwood Cemetery, see page 1 C.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 25 May 1979, p1A:

Under the overgrowth
Owensboro black history hidden in Greenwood Cemetery

By SALLY GELSTON Messenger-Inquirer

"I bet you won't catch anybody visiting in that cemetery on Memorial Day." – the Rev. Larry Lewis

Two years ago Memorial Day, Blenda Board drove out to Greenwood Cemetery to lay a wreath on her grandfather's grave. But as she ventured into the brush to search out the tombstone, her husband, Charles, called her back to the car. He was afraid she'd be bitten by a snake.

Unable to locate the grave, the Boards drove over to Elmwood Cemetery where they left the grandfather's wreath on another relative's grave. "It's a hurting thing," Mrs. Board said of her inability to visit her ancestor's memorial.

Today, it takes a brave soul to duck into the wilderness that now is Greenwood Cemetery, which lies east of Owensboro, north of Kentucky 54 near 18th Street.

One can catch a glimpse of a tombstone five feet away but it takes three minutes to find a clear path through the bushes to the grave. After stepping carefully over the bumpy terrain, one can then pull back the brambles growing against the stone's letters: "Bud James – Kentucky – Private, 25th Infantry – died Sept. 10, 1934."

James was one of the hundreds of blacks buried in Greenwood between 1902 and 1974. Owensboro's black history lies there underneath the wild growth. Virtually every black person from Owensboro to die up until the mid-1960's was buried in Greenwood, if he didn't go to a small church burial ground, according to William Norris.

Seventy-six-year-old Norris is one of three survivors from the United Brothers of Friendship, a black fraternal and charitable organization that maintained the graveyard from 1921 to 1972, when the organization disbanded.

"I didn't know what to do," Norris said while talking about how the graveyard's problems fell to him because he was the group's secretary-treasurer. "We ran out of money; we ran out of room to bury anyone. The last one to be buried there was Donald Douglas in 1974. After that people wouldn't have their kin buried in all that stuff."

Now Norris wants to change all that. He is working with Owensboro attorney David Brodie to find a way to raise the money to clean up the grounds, he said. Norris hopes to sell a strip of land owned by the cemetery which can't be used for burials because it is a former city landfill.

Brodie would discuss no specific plan for the cemetery. "I'm holding up on any plans I have until I find out what the highway department is doing," he said.

The Kentucky Bureau of Highways has plans to relocate Kentucky 54 east of the cemetery. Engineer Ken Lacy said the bureau has no intention of running the new route through the graveyard, and that there's a good stretch east of there that could be used to build on without "disturbing anyone," he said.

Masonic Lodge member Donald Owsley is also involved in upgrading the cemetery's present condition. He said the problem lies in finding the heirs to the cemetery's original shareholders. Once they are gathered together, a decision can be made on how to raise the funds.

It seems no one knows who owns Greenwood Cemetery, Norris said. "It's not mine."

Although they may not own the land, many families around Owensboro wish Greenwood was more accessible.

"Momma didn't want to take grandfather there because his grave would be lost in the weeds," said Mrs. Board. "My aunt said everyone on her side was buried there and she wanted grandfather with them. She won the argument."

"It's depressing. He had the nicest white coffin and they put him out there in all that mess," Mrs. Board said. About 40 people attended the burial that day, tramping about 20 feet into the brush, she said. Mrs. Board hasn't been back to Greenwood since that Memorial Day two years ago when she couldn't find the grave.

In the case of another family member, George Board, the tombstone never made it to the grave because once the veteran's stone arrived, they didn't know where to put it.

It now rests in the backyard of Mrs. Board's mother-in-law, Ethel Board. "When I took the stone out I couldn't find the grave, it was all grown over. I hear there's snakes out there, and frankly I'm scared of it," she said.

Relatives said the cemetery was cleared out about ten years ago by federal workers. Since that time it's just grown back though, because there's no money for "perpetual care."

"They couldn't afford to maintain it," said James Young, director of Young's Funeral Home. It cost \$50 to be buried in Greenwood, while it now costs between \$425 and \$600 to be buried in Elmwood.

"You can understand the prices when you see a place like Greenwood," Young said. Perpetual care means paying now to have the lawn mowed in 60 years.

Mrs. Joanne Haynes of Owensboro said she feels strongly about having the whole family together in one place. She has a tombstone waiting for her in Greenwood, where her husband is resting.

"My stone is close to the road, but I can't see it," she said. "I don't know if I'll go there. I always thought I would, but now I don't know with it like that."

[ed. note – In this article it was mistakenly reported the last burial at Greenwood Cemetery was in 1974 (Donald Douglas). The 1974 date was quoted in numerous subsequent articles. It has been subsequently documented that at least five burials were made in 1975 (Horace Douglas, Jr., John Henry Harris, Franklin W. Mundy, Bishop Sipes & Henrietta Thomas) and one in 1976 (Mattie Patton).]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 11 July 1982, pp1A & 12A:

*Efforts under way
to restore cemetery*

By Mike Hill, Messenger-Inquirer

For more than three years, Ethel Board has kept a tombstone in her garden. Even though no one is buried there.

Mrs. Board said she put the tombstone of her husband's uncle in the garden behind her house at 601 Plum St. in Owensboro because she could not find the gravesite in Greenwood Cemetery.

George O. Board was buried in the cemetery in 1966. He was one of hundreds of Owensboro blacks buried therebetween 1902 and 1974.

Mrs. Board is like many local blacks who cannot visit their deceased relatives at Greenwood because it is almost impossible to tell where they are.

Etta Southerland of 2713 W. 10th St. could not find her nephew's grave when she went there last spring. She ended up leaving flowers near where she thought he was buried.

The Rev. Larry Lewis, pastor of Zion Baptist Church, knows his grandmother has a gravesite somewhere at the cemetery, which is on Leitchfield Road between 18th Street and the U.S. 60 bypass. But he can't find it.

Even if people know where to look, they have to clear a path through overgrown bushes and weeds, watch out for poison ivy, and stay away from the snakes, ticks and other creatures lurking in the brush.

For the past 10 years, nobody has been maintaining the cemetery. But Daviess Judge-executive Bill Froehlich said Friday that the county has agreed to clear brush from the gravesite area because nobody else has wanted to do it.

He added that the county, which has received complaints about the cemetery, expects to clear the area once in hopes that a civic group will provide ongoing maintenance there.



Ethel Board keeps her husband's uncle's tombstone in her garden rather than leave it in Greenwood Cemetery.

Sheriff John Bouvier, who is president of the local Noon Optimists Club, said he expects the Junior Optimists to maintain the cemetery as a community project for at least this year.

"We're going to try it for a year and ' , see how it goes," Bouvier said. In the last decade, the cemetery has degraded into a place where almost anything goes. Just ask the neighbors.

Doris Williams, who lives next to Greenwood, is sometimes afraid to let her 3-year-old son play outside. People go hunting in the cemetery and at times stray shots end up in her yard.

People have also been dumping trash in the cemetery, setting fires, "and going in with shovels and digging at night." Mrs. Williams said. In addition, young people drink and get loud thereon weekends.

Bouvier said the cemetery is a well- known drop-off point for drugs.

"Just everything goes on up there." said Mayme Wethington, who lives on the other side of Mrs. Williams, her daughter. "It's just really a mess to live by."

Mrs. Wethington said that a few years ago, her husband, James, came within inches of being hit by a bullet that came from Greenwood.

According to a previous Messenger-Inquirer story on Greenwood, virtually all local black people were buried in the cemetery until the mid-1960s. The last person buried there was Donald Douglas, who was laid to rest in 1974.

The Daviess County Plat Book lists Greenwood Cemetery Association Inc. as owner of the property, but nobody knows who owns all the corporation's stock.

Donald Owsley said Mount Pisgah Lodge 20, F&AM, where he is a member, owns some stock in the cemetery, but the original books that list all stockholders cannot be found.

The United Brothers of Friendship, a black fraternal and charitable organization, maintained the cemetery from 1921 until 1972 when it disbanded, said 85-year-old William S. Watson. He is one of two known survivors of the group that once had 80 members.

About 20 years ago, the cemetery had a full-time caretaker living on the grounds, said Mrs. Wethington. Back then, she said, rose bushes and flowers adorned gravesites.

"We used to have a lot of money, but we put it all in the graveyard," Watson said. He added that as time went on, it became more and more difficult to find people to help keep Greenwood in good shape.

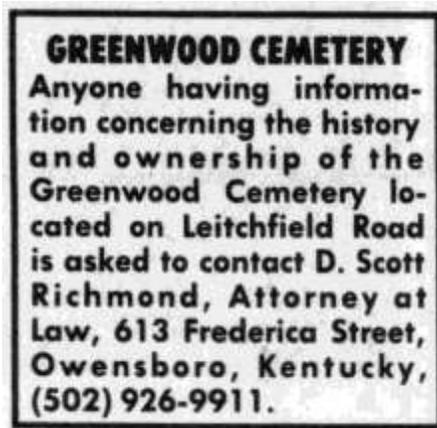
Because only five of the 20 acres of cemetery property have gravesites, some people have proposed selling the extra land to raise funds for maintenance. But because nobody knows who all has title to the property, nothing has been done.

Owsley said he would like to see the area without graves made into a park.

Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Wethington said they called various agencies and community leaders to try to get Greenwood cleaned up. But until last week, they had no luck.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 9 June 1984, p2D:





Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 4 August 1984, p1A:

Inmate does his time by cleaning cemetery

By Karen Owen, Messenger-Inquirer

Instead of spending the next 46 days sitting in the Daviess County Jail, Carl Ray Schroader will be clearing the overgrown Greenwood Cemetery with hand tools.



Carl Ray Schroader clears years worth of undergrowth near a tombstone in Greenwood Cemetery.

He asked to clean up the cemetery because he hates loafing and if he's going to work, he wants it to be meaningful work, Schroader, 47, said Friday as he took a break from cutting down trees and fighting honeysuckle vines at the graveyard.

The task he asked for will not be an easy one, said Division II Daviess District Judge Robert Goebel, who gave him permission to clean up the cemetery.

"It's a jungle out there," Goebel said.

The graveyard on Leitchfield Road between 18th Street and the U.S. 60 bypass has been ravaged by both vandals and nature during the 12 years it has been neglected.

The relatives of people buried there say they can't find their kinfolks' resting places because tombstones are missing from the sunken graves or have been hidden by the encroaching forest.

In two days of work, Schroader has "exposed some tombs that probably haven't seen the light of day for 25 or 30 years or more," Goebel said.

The cemetery's neighbors have complained that the place is a haven for snakes, rats and dope dealers. But people who want to clean it up say they have been hindered by

confusion over who owns the graveyard and what will happen to it if the state ever carries out plans to straighten a curve on Leitchfield Road there.

Daviess County Sheriff John Bouvier and civic leader Donald Owsley say they are going to ask the attorney general to issue an opinion on who owns the cemetery, since Greenwood Cemetery Association Inc.'s major stockholder – the United Brothers of Friendship, a black fraternal and charitable organization – disintegrated in 1972.

Bouvier got involved in the cleanup effort two years ago as a friend of Owsley, who is a member of Mount Pisgah Lodge 20, F&AM, which also owns stock in the graveyard, and who has about 20 relatives buried there. "Some of them, we don't even know where they are," Owsley said.

Bouvier said he tried to get some people who wanted to cut firewood at the graveyard to clear it off, but he turned them away when he discovered they were only interested in removing hardwood trees and leaving the brush and vines.

"They really weren't helping anybody" he said.

Two years ago, Bouvier, who was president of the Noon Optimists Club, said he thought the Junior Optimists would take on the graveyard as a project but the group never did get involved with it, he said Friday.

He "kind of backed off from this" when he heard state officials were interested in straightening out the curve on Leitchfield Road by the cemetery, which would probably require moving some of the graves, Bouvier said.

Owsley said he thinks an ideal solution would be for the county to take over the cemetery and turn the 15 acres there without graves into a park.

He is concerned that someone might try to take advantage of the confusion over ownership to claim the land, which he says also abuts the city's eastside industrial park, and try to make a quick profit off of the states plans to widen Leitchfield Road, Owsley said. "It's very valuable land. Don't let anybody kid you about that."

It didn't look very valuable on Friday, when Schroader was working there.

Locust trees, grapevines and poison ivy formed a nearly impenetrable barrier in places, while in others, the ground had been charred black by campfires.

Part of the graveyard was littered with old rusty box springs, a stove, and carpet backing. Owsley said he has even seen a deer carcass dumped there.

Schroader, who works as a commercial roofer and concrete worker, said he grew up a few blocks away from the graveyard, so he once played there as a child and has gone parking there as an adult.

He also knew many of the people buried there, he said.

He had been thinking about clearing the graveyard for a long time but he never got around to doing any thing about it until he landed in jail July 20 on charges of driving under the influence and driving on a suspended or revoked license, Schroader said.

Court records show Goebel sentenced Schroader to a \$500 fine and 12 months in jail – all but 60 days of it probated for the next two years if he doesn't get into trouble again over alcohol.

He was also sentenced to 30 days in an alcohol rehabilitation program at Henderson.

When Schroader wrote him from jail and asked his permission to work at the cemetery, Goebel said, his first impulse was to say no, but the graveyard's condition "seemed like such a waste, such a wrong."

He also thought the work might do Schroader some good, so he agreed to let him work unsupervised at the cemetery if he agreed to three things: being back at the jail every day by 3:30 p.m., spending his time at the site really working, and taking a daily dose of antabuse, a chemical that makes the patient violently ill if he consumes alcohol, Goebel said.

If Schroader violates their agreement, he will have to spend his entire 12-month sentence behind bars, Goebel said.

Schroader said Friday he doesn't intend for that to happen.

As for his graveyard work, "it's gone a lot slower than I thought it would," he said.

The vines have been especially stubborn and the sweat bees have been merciless, Schroader said.

A few people have stopped at the graveyard when they noticed him working there and promised to return to help him, he said. No one has come back yet, but "I won't complain about any volunteers."

[ed. note – Carl Ray Schroader on 19 January 1986 was murdered by Sharon Sue Morton at the Owensboro Motel, 1420 Triplett Street.]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 23 August 1984, p1C:

Judge pulls inmate off cemetery job

Goebel says prisoner violated terms
of agreement to clean up Greenwood

By Karen Owen, Messenger-Inquirer

A Daviess County Jail inmate who was cleaning up Greenwood Cemetery has been pulled off the job for violating an agreement he made with a judge, but a local black leader says he hopes to continue the long-neglected cemetery improvements that the inmate started.

Daviess District Judge Robert Goebel Wednesday ordered Carl Ray Schroader to start all over on his 60-day jail term for driving while under the influence again – this time without leaving the jail during the day to work at the cemetery – but he still will have to spend 275 hours working at Greenwood when his jail term and a stint at an alcohol rehabilitation clinic are over.

Schroader was serving a 60-day jail term when he asked Goebel late last month to let him spend his days cleaning up the neglected cemetery, where he played as a child.

Goebel had granted Schroader's request on the conditions that he spend his time away from the jail really working and that he take a daily dose of antabuse, a chemical that makes the user violently ill if he drinks alcohol.

Goebel revoked the agreement Wednesday, though, because Schroader left the graveyard Aug. 15 to take his girlfriend to Henderson and had three beers after failing to take antabuse for a week.

Jimmy Bush, a local funeral home director, praised the work Schroader has done at the graveyard with hand tools in the past two weeks, and said he hopes to build on the inmate's efforts by organizing a community cleanup effort, to be completed by next Memorial Day.

Schroader didn't complain about his new sentence Wednesday, although he won't be getting any credit for the time he has spent in jail since July 20 or working at the graveyard since Aug. 3.

"That's fair," he said of Goebel's decision. "That's more than fair."

Goebel could have sentenced Schroader to 12 more months in jail, since that was part of the agreement the two men made when Schroader asked Goebel to let him leave jail during the day to clean up the cemetery.

Goebel said he was not going to impose the full amount of time on Schroader, however, because he felt partially responsible for the man's failure to keep their agreement.

"I've lost some sleep over this matter," he told Schroader during the hearing.

He said Schroader had done a "hell of a job" during the two weeks he spent working by himself to reverse the damage that vandals and nature have caused at the graveyard, located on Leitchfield Road between 18th Street and the U.S. 60 bypass.

But Goebel said he should have realized he couldn't put a man with a drinking problem in an unsupervised situation and expect him not to take a drink.

Goebel originally sentenced Schroader to 12 months in jail, but probated all but 60 days of that term as long as Schroader didn't get in trouble over alcohol for two years.

People with relatives buried at Greenwood have complained for years that they can't find family graves that have been defaced by vandals or hidden by the junglelike thicket there.

The cemetery's neighbors complained that 12 years of neglect have turned the cemetery into a hiding place for rodents, snakes and drug users, but the people who wanted to clean it up said they couldn't figure out exactly who owns the graveyard or what will happen to it if the state follows through on plans to straighten Leitchfield Road.

Schroader said early last month that he knew many of the people buried at Greenwood, and that he always had wanted to do something about the graveyard's condition.

Since Schroader still is interested in cleaning up the graveyard. Goebel said he was converting a \$500 fine he imposed on Schroader last month for his DUI charge to 275 hours of work that he will have to do after he finishes his jail term and gets out of a 30-day alcohol rehabilitation clinic.

Schroader said that "I'm just glad I did what I did do" at Greenwood. "I started it and I want to finish it."



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY,
14 January 1987,p5C & 27 February 1987, p8A:**

[ed. note – Abstract: A legal notice of a class action suit filed in the Daviess County, KY Circuit Court (case # CASE 86-CI-1257) was published in the above editions. The suit was filed by plaintiffs: Mary Fisher Morris, Florence Barker Perkins, Yvonne Plummer, Lloyd A. Watts, Inez Agnew Woods and other heirs of shareholders in the Greenwood Cemetery Association, Inc. Defendants in the suit were the estates of T. N. Loving, Frank Claybrooks and other unknown heirs of shareholders in the Greenwood Cemetery Association, Inc. The plaintiffs were seeking the sale of two acres along the northern margin of the Greenwood Cemetery real estate to the Transportation Department Commonwealth of Kentucky for the right-of-way of a new route for State Highway 54 in the amount of \$42,000.]



Daviess County, KY Deed Book 560, pp.545-548:

Commissioner's Deed

WHEREAS, in the action in Daviess Circuit Court styled MARY FISHER MORRIS, et al v. THE ESTATE OF FRANK CLAYBROOKS, et al, INCLUDING COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS, Civil Action No. 86-CI-1257 a judgment was entered on the 5th day of March, 1987, in the Daviess Circuit Court Clerk's Office, ordering the payment of \$42,800.00 to the clerk for the land described below, which payment was authorized to be paid to the clerk subject to further orders of the court; and,

WHEREAS, in said judgment the master commissioner of the Daviess Circuit Court was directed to execute a deed of conveyance to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Highways; and,

WHEREAS, the aforesaid consideration has been paid, NOW, THEREFORE, THIS DEED made and entered into this 5th day of March, 1987, by and between Garland W. Howard, MASTER COMMISSIONER OF THE DAVIESS CIRCUIT COURT, for and on behalf of the above named parties, party of the first part, and the COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, for the use and benefit of the Department of Highways, acting in its original capacity, party of the second part,

WITNESSETH

That for and in consideration of the premises, party of the first part has bargained and sold, and does hereby grant and convey, unto the party of the second part, its successors and assigns, forever, the real property rights as hereinafter more fully set forth in connection with the Highway Project, Daviess County, FSP 030 54 2-3 24 R; M 8668 3.

PARCEL NO. 19

Beginning at the intersection point of the grantor's north P.L. and the east R/W line of proposed KY 54, said point being 91.28 feet left or east of and opposite proposed KY 54 centerline Sta. 127+79.96; thence with the east R/W line of proposed KY 54 S 27 degrees 58 minutes 04 seconds E, 135.19 feet to a point in the grantor's south P.L., said point being 93.57 feet left or east of and opposite said centerline Sta. 129+15.13; thence with

the grantor's south P.L., crossing centerline at Sta. 129+67.00; S 34 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds W, 258.41 feet to a point in the west R/W line of proposed KY 54, said point being 132.44 feet right or west of and opposite said centerline Sta. 130+40.41; thence with the west R/W line of proposed KY 54 N 12 degrees 04 minutes 07 seconds W, 145.32 feet to a point, said point being 95.00 feet right or west of and opposite said center line Sta 129+00.00; thence with same N 28 degrees 54 minutes 25 seconds W, 150.06 feet to a point, said point being 100.00 feet right or west of and opposite said centerline Sta. 127+50.00; thence with same N 27 degrees 12 minutes 56 seconds W, 99.06 feet to a point, said point being 100.00 feet right or west of and opposite said centerline Sta. 126+50.00; thence with same N 44 degrees 51 minutes 58 seconds W, 51.17 feet to a point, said point being 115.00 feet right or west of and opposite said centerline Ste. 126+00.00; thence with same N 20 degrees 06 minutes 51 seconds W, 97.93 feet to a point, said point being 100.00 feet right or west of and opposite said centerline Sta. 125+00.00; thence with same N 34 degrees 49 minutes 18 seconds W, 192.89 feet to a point, said point being 110.00 feet right or west of and opposite said centerline Sta. 123+00.00; thence with same N 42 degrees 04 minutes 16 seconds W, 24.59 feet to a point in the grantor's north P.L., said point being 113.41 feet right or west of and opposite said centerline Sta. 122+74.66; thence with the grantor's north P.L. N 38 degrees 36 minutes 42 seconds B, 34.82 feet to a point, said point being 80.09 feet right or west of and opposite said centerline Sta. 122+64.16; thence with same crossing centerline at Sta. 125+39.51; S 48 degrees 17 minutes 56 seconds E, 541.10 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2.075 acres of new R/W in fee simple.

The acquisition of the right of way of this project was authorized by the Kentucky Bureau of Highways Official Order No. 89596. The control of access on this project and access to the remaining property of the first party shall be by permit, as required to be set forth in Section 5 of the Kentucky Administrative Regulations (603 KAR 5:010).

This being a portion of the property conveyed to the Greenwood Cemetery Association, Inc., by deed dated April 9, 1906 from B. W. Moore, single and recorded in Deed Book 80, page 571, Daviess County Clerk's Office.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said property unto the party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever, with all the rights and privileges thereunto belonging as hereinbefore more particularly set forth. The title conveyed hereby is fee simple.

Said conveyance is made by the Master Commissioner only in his official capacity and does not imply any personal liability therefor. The parties to said action, whose title is passed by this conveyance, are the Defendants in the above described action.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the party of the first party has hereunto set his hand this the day and year first above written.

Garland W. Howard
Master Commissioner
Daviess Circuit Court

Examined and approved in open Court this 5th day of March, 1987.

Robert M. Short
Judge, Daviess Circuit court
March 5th, 1987

STATE OF KENTUCKY
DAVIESS CIRCUIT COURT

The Master Commissioner of the Daviess Circuit Court, produced the foregoing deed of conveyance to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, for the use and benefit of the Department of Highways, which was examined and approved by the Court, and the said Commissioner acknowledged the same to be his true act and deed; wherefore, the same was ordered to be and is hereby certified to the proper office for record.

PAT. Hardesty, clerk
Daviess Circuit Court
By Vicki L. Head, D.C.
Clerk, Daviess Circuit Court

This instrument prepared by:
Charles W. Huddleston
Transportation Cabinet
Post Office Box 599
Bowling Green, KY 42101
State of Kentucky, County of Daviess,

I, Mike Libs, County Clerk, for the county and state aforesaid do certify that the foregoing Commissioner's Deed was duly lodged for record in my office at 1:35 p.m., on the 5th day of March, 1987 and that I have recorded the same together with the foregoing and this certificate in my office. Witness my hand this the 5 day of March, 1987, Mike Libs, Clerk, By A. Herrell, D.C.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 20 April 1988, pp1A & 8A:

Forgotten local cemeteries lost in grass

By Stewart Jennison, Messenger-Inquirer

The grass grows deep on two of Daviess County's forgotten cemeteries.

The worse of the two is Greenwood Cemetery, hidden by trees, brush and weeds on a hillside east of Kentucky 54, near its intersection with 18th Street.

A dirt road that circles Greenwood is littered with new piles of trash – fast-food cups and burger boxes – and with old piles already rusting or burned.

Some graves have sunk in soft mud. The few markers still visible through the brambles are targets for vandals with cans of spray paint.

Hundreds of blacks were buried in Greenwood between 1902 and 1974. But since the corporation that started the cemetery dissolved in 'the late 1950s, maintenance has been only occasional.

"It doesn't take long for it to grow back if nobody takes any interest," said James Young, bookkeeper for a black funeral home in Owensboro.

In comparatively good shape is Potter's Field, a pauper's cemetery with so few surviving markers it is easily mistaken for a park or pasture.

For several years, nobody was buried in the cemetery because officials thought it was filled. But burials by the Welfare League and others resumed in the early 1980s. One grave – still muddy and already sinking – was dug as recently as March.

Unlike Greenwood Cemetery, Potter's Field has an owner and a source of maintenance even though it is not as regular as neighbors and visitors wish.

The city of Owensboro maintains the pauper's cemetery behind Elmwood Cemetery. The grass is nearly a foot high in spots, but it will be mowed soon, said J.D. Vaughan, director of public works for the city.

Vaughan said he received complaints about the maintenance last summer and had resolved to mow more frequently this year.



Upkeep of the Greenwood Cemetery on Kentucky 54 near 18th Street has been sporadic since the group that owned it dissolved in the 1950s.

The future of Greenwood is not as secure.

City Commissioner R. L. McFarland, whose family owns a funeral home, said his mother, father, sister, brother and grandmother are all buried in Greenwood Cemetery. "But I can't even get to the graves."

McFarland said he has been approached by a number of people – white and black – who want to see the cemetery cleaned and restored to a more respectful appearance.

The main problem, McFarland said, 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."

Grover Cox, an Owensboro attorney, said he has worked over the past two years trying to identify all the descendants of the cemetery corporation's original stockholders. They are scattered from New York to North Carolina, he said, and many have not been located.

The part of the cemetery with graves only occupies about a third of the approximately 15 acres of property, he said. Several months ago, some of the descendants negotiated the sale of part of the unused property to the state highway department, which wants it for relocating a section of Kentucky 54.

The sale brought about \$40,000, which will have to stay in an escrow account until all descendants are located and able to decide what to do with the property, Cox said.

Whether or not the heirs want to create a perpetual maintenance fund is up to them, he said.

He estimated it will be several more months before anything else is resolved.

The Daviess County road department occasionally maintains the cemetery, and last year hauled off several truck loads of trash, Cox said.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 15 September 1989, p1C:

DIGEST – DAVIESS FISCAL COURT

Daviess Fiscal Court took the following action at its meeting Wednesday:

- Froehlich said he's been getting a lot of calls to clean up Greenwood Cemetery near 18th Street and Leitchfield Road. He suggested it would be a good project for a volunteer group to keep the cemetery free of garbage and high weeds.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 2 November 1989, p2C:

DIGEST – FISCAL COURT

- Judge-Executive Bill Froehlich said he would be meeting with several people to try to settle problems with the Greenwood Cemetery, which draws complaints for its appearance and safety.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 8 October 1992, p5C:

DIGEST – OWENSBORO CITY COMMISSION

- Heard Commissioner R.L. McFarland announce that there will be a public clean-up of Greenwood Cemetery on Leitchfield Road on Oct. 17.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 18 October 1992, p9C:

Volunteers start clearing overgrown cemetery

By Karen Owen, Messenger-Inquirer

The Rev. R.L. McFarland was looking for his parents' graves.

For years, McFarland couldn't even search for their tombstones because Greenwood Cemetery was so overgrown.

Saturday, a group of volunteers tried to change that.

About a dozen people, including middle school students and Dismas House residents, cut down trees, pushed back vines and raked leaves to clear paths through the cemetery alongside Leitchfield Road.

"This is just wonderful," McFarland said. "I hope we can just keep it that way."

After the Catholic parishes in Owensboro heard about the cemetery's condition, the Rev. Steve Ulrich, associate pastor at St. Pius X Catholic Church, and McFarland coordinated a cleanup.

One of their volunteers was John Ford, a 13-year-old who said he has to give 14 hours of community service as part of his Confirmation preparation.

"It was fun," John said.

He was just sorry he wasn't the one who found the old mini-bike two young co-workers were riding at top speed down the cemetery's steep hill.

Workers also found an old kitchen sink, a couch, mattress and refrigerator, Ulrich said.

"It's going to take several cleanups," he said. "It's a huge undertaking."

Hundreds of black people were buried here before the early 1970s. Different people have tried to clean up Greenwood before, but the effort stalled when no one could determine who actually owns the site, McFarland said.

This time, cleanup organizers hope things will be different. They want to form a committee to follow through in the future.

"Hopefully," McFarland said, "we can get somebody to maintain it."



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 8 August 1996, p1B:

Restoration

Group planning to clean Greenwood Cemetery this fall

By Tracy L. McQueen, Messenger-Inquirer

The beauty of the ornate and historical headstones at Greenwood Cemetery is hidden by twisted brush, fallen trees and litter.

A load of scrap lumber, plastic pipe and other junk covers the graves of Fannie R. Berry and Richard Griffith, who were both laid to rest there in 1939. It's a sad sight for Emily Holloway of Owensboro and others who have loved ones buried in the cemetery off Leitchfield Road.

"I just hate to see this place like that," Holloway said. "People have been cleaning it up from time to time. Now we want it cleaned up and maintained."

The cemetery was the burial place for many African Americans from the Owensboro area. The first burial there was in 1906, the last in 1974. Holloway said there are hundreds of graves there, spread over approximately six acres. Many soldiers are among those buried.

The lack of maintenance is attributed to a dispute among the heirs to the property and confusion about who actually owns the cemetery.

Holloway and others, including Wesley Acton of Pleasant Ridge, plan to organize a cleanup effort. They are planning a work day for the fall, probably in mid-October, after frost has killed the weeds and sent the snakes into hiding. There's plenty of work to be done. But they hope that once it's cleaned up, family members can work together to keep it maintained.

"I do want to preserve what can be preserved," Holloway said.

Owensboro Mayor Waymond Morris, Mayor Pro-Tem R.L. McFarland and County Commissioner Gary Boswell visited the cemetery this week to help the residents determine what to do.

"This could be such a beautiful place," Morris said.

McFarland has a personal interest in the cemetery, because his parents and other relatives are buried there.

"It makes me feel sad, I tell you," McFarland said.

Although there have been cleanup efforts before, there seemed to be more work than volunteers. Acton hopes this time will be different.

"Fifteen or 20 people could do a lot of it," Acton said. "But I hope we have 150."

To Help
Descendants and others concerned with preserving Greenwood Cemetery are asking for volunteers to assist with a clean-up effort planned for mid-October. For information, call Wesley Acton at 275-4511 or Emily Holloway at 683-7391.



Left: Sticks and saplings shadow the headstone of James J. Green, a World War II veteran who died in 1964. Right: Harry Young, left, and Harry Fields, volunteers in the upcoming clean-up of Greenwood Cemetery off Leitchfield Road, discuss clearing brush and trees after attempting to find several graves on the east side of the six-acre cemetery on Tuesday.



An Appeal For Greenwood Cemetery Owensboro, Ky. – 1996

Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro, Kentucky needs your help! It was the major burial grounds for African-American citizens for many decades. Veterans from the Civil War through WWI! have graves there. Unfortunately, now our deceased families, friends and neighbors lie beneath trash, weeds, overgrown thickets, and trees. The entire Cemetery has been violated , abused, and mutilated by people, animals, nature, and time!

Yet, as one walks through, there remains a sense of serenity and a quiet beauty. The intrinsic value and honor lavished upon our deceased loved ones shines through, even amidst the rubble! Please, help us rekindle the dream of our forefathers and restore Greenwood Cemetery!

HOW? Call Wesley Acton at (502) 275-4511 or Emily Holloway at (502) 683-7391!

WHEN? Now! Community clean-up Sat Oct. 12,1996.

WHAT? Information – anything you know about the Cemetery and the people buried there!

NEEDS? Volunteers, Prayers, Good-will, and Tools. Please share your Resources.
THANK YOU!

Make checks payable to:

The Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee
% Ms. E.H. Holloway 3514 Christie PL Owensboro, KY 42301



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 13 October 1996, p1C:

Cemetery workers uncover history

By Mark Cooper, Messenger-Inquirer

"The Lord is my shepherd" reads the marble tombstone above Eva Showers Clanton's grave. But Saturday, other shepherds joined the watch over her grave.

Volunteers with the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee equipped with gloves, hatchets, rakes and chain saws descended on the 14-acre cemetery off Leitchfield Road on Saturday morning. Cutting and hacking through the tangled underbrush and

forest that had taken over the cemetery, they uncovered Clanton's grave and dozens like it.

"I found my uncle's grave," Elaine Pope, 42, said. "I knew he was buried up here, but until today, I didn't know where." Volunteers hope the effort - expected to take days of hard work - will uncover part of Owensboro's history and restore pride in the burial ground, according to Wesley Acton, committee co-chairman.

The cemetery is the burial place for many African Americans from the Owensboro area, including veterans of the Spanish-American War, World War I and II and at least one Civil War veteran - a second lieutenant in Cobb's Battery, according to Fred Wilhite, president of the local Sons of Confederate Veterans group.

The first burial there was in 1906, the last in 1974.

The lack of maintenance has been blamed on a dispute among the heirs to the property and confusion about who actually owns the cemetery.

Helping the 30 or so volunteers were members of the Daviess County High School Co-Ed YMCA Club and Sons of Confederate Veterans. A crew from Kevco Enterprises provided a chipper and chain saws for the group as well as a truck to haul away the waste.

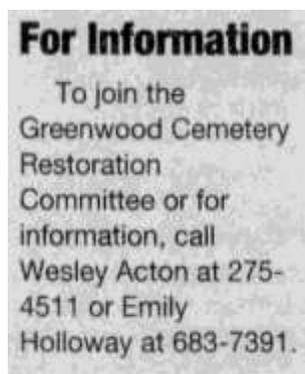
Before the cleanup started, only hollow depressions in the ground and a few overturned grave markers indicated a cemetery existed in the underbrush.

But Acton said the cleanup is the first step toward making the cemetery beautiful again. Future plans include forming a foundation to raise money for continued maintenance, he said.

"This has been a dream of mine for 20 years," said Acton, though he has no family members buried there. "I have just always thought that letting the cemetery go has been a bad reflection on the whole town."

Emily Holloway, committee co-chairwoman, said she hopes the work will inspire others with family members buried there to help keep the cemetery maintained in the future.

"We don't need to be doing this once every 10 years," she said.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 18 October 1996, p1B:

Volunteers needed to clean cemetery

Descendants of those buried at Greenwood Cemetery are looking for volunteers to continue a cleanup effort throughout the fall.

The cemetery, which is the burial place of many African Americans from this area, became overgrown with brush and cluttered with trash in recent years. Descendants organized a cleanup day last weekend, but there's more work to do.

Organizers will meet from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday through Nov. 23 at the cemetery on Leitchfield Road, weather permitting. Volunteers are asked to bring their own tools, such as chain saws and weed trimmers, and to wear sturdy boots or shoes.

For information, call Emily Holloway at 683-7391 or Wesley Acton at 275-4511.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 7 August 1997, p5C:

DIGEST – DAVIESS FISCAL COURT

- County Commissioner Gary Boswell, who said volunteers have made great progress in the clean up of Greenwood Cemetery. Volunteers have been working there for about a year.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 12 August 1997, pp1A & 2A:

Cemetery repairs get 'gee whiz' reviews

A year ago, there were probably more than a few people who thought Wesley Acton was a little naive when he talked about restoring Greenwood Cemetery.

The tangled brush was so thick in some areas that the historic headstones were barely visible. Debris covered many grave sites at the cemetery off Leitchfield Road. Many of the headstones were overturned.

But Acton of Pleasant Ridge never gave up. And with the help of more than 150 volunteers, the cemetery finally looks like a cemetery again.

"He did this. He would not give up," said Emily Holloway of Owensboro, who co-chairs the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee along with Acton.

The cemetery was the burial place for many African Americans from the Owensboro area. The first burial there was in 1906, the last in 1974. Holloway said there are hundreds of graves there, spread over approximately six acres. Many soldiers are among those buried.

Volunteers armed with chain saws and weed trimmers have spent the past year fighting through the brush to try to restore the cemetery to its former beauty.

Ben Deal of Owensboro, who has relatives buried in the cemetery, said he was amazed at the progress.

"They've really cleaned it up," Deal said. "Gee, whiz."

On some days, there have been dozens of volunteers including groups from Brescia College, Owensboro Catholic High School, Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Boy Scouts and the Daviess County Detention Center. On other days, just Acton and a handful of others showed up to work.

Samuel Tandy of Owensboro has been working in the cemetery practically every Monday this summer. "I remember this place," he said. "When I was a little boy, my mother brought me up here."

Tandy doesn't have any relatives buried in the cemetery. He said he got involved because of Acton.

"He has really put his heart into it," Tandy said. "When you see a man doing that, you want to help him out."

The lack of maintenance at the cemetery is attributed to a dispute among the heirs. Although there have been cleanup efforts before, there seemed to be more work than volunteers.

But Acton and others were determined to make sure this time was different.

"It was a major undertaking and still is a major undertaking," said Fred Wilhite of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "But I can see that they're going to be able to finish it, and I'm really proud for them."

Wilhite said his group will continue to work with the restoration committee to help identify all of those buried at the cemetery. He said many of the graves are unmarked.

Acton said he would encourage the descendants of those buried at Greenwood to visit the cemetery to help identify those buried in the unmarked graves. He also hopes that some relatives or others will "adopt" areas of the cemetery and provide continued maintenance.

Acton said he expects to be working at the cemetery for at least another year.

"I'm just very proud of what's taken place," Acton said. "And I am very proud of those who have seen fit to come out and help us."

To Help: Descendants and others concerned with preserving Greenwood Cemetery are working on Mondays this summer at the cemetery off Leitchfield Road. Volunteers and donations are needed. For information, call Wesley Acton at 275-4511 or Emily Holloway at 683-7391.



Left: "It makes you feel good to know where your family is buried. I guess we'll be able to bring some flowers up here now," said Ben Deal, 76, of 704 Hocker St., while walking Monday through Greenwood Cemetery. Right: Mark Emerson, 17, left, and Walter Breeder, 13, with Boy Scout Troop No. 24 in Owensboro fill in low spots with dirt Monday morning in Greenwood Cemetery. "I think we're making some headway on it. There's a lot more to do, but I guess there are people willing to help," Breeder said.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 19 August 1997, p5A:

Editorial – Volunteers improve community

"This has been a dream of mine for 20 years," said Wesley Acton last October as volunteers started the hard manual labor of cleaning up Owensboro's Greenwood Cemetery. "I have just always thought that letting the cemetery go has been a bad reflection on the whole town."

Acton and Emily Holloway have served as co-chairs of the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee. Last Tuesday, the Messenger-Inquirer's Tracy McQueen wrote about their effort to bring the cemetery back.

It was the burial place for many African Americans from the Owensboro area. The first burial there was in 1906, the last in 1974.

Holloway said there are hundreds of graves there, spread over approximately six acres. Many soldiers are among those buried – including at least one veteran of the Civil War.

More than 150 volunteers armed with chain saws and weed trimmers have spent the past year fighting through the brush to try to restore the cemetery to its former beauty.

The work is far from finished. Acton and Holloway are still recruiting donations and volunteers to keep the effort up and ensure that the cemetery remains a point of pride, rather than an eyesore and a haven for snakes and vermin.

But we think of the work that has already been done as a success.

It is an example - far from an isolated one – of the power of community-based action and leadership. Greenwood Cemetery wasn't Acton's problem. He has no family buried there. The dispute among heirs that is reportedly the cause of the cemetery's neglect did not involve him.

But he and Holloway – who has relatives buried there – have labored on their own time for more than a year to better their community. And the power of their commitment has attracted the admiration and active support of hundreds.

In the grand scheme, it is only a few acres of land. But preserving our history is an important task. The cemetery had become an insult to those who were buried there. Setting that right was an obligation that is too often ignored.

Our region has a fair share of old cemeteries – some with self-appointed and underappreciated citizen caretakers.

How much better we would honor the memory and beauty of our communities if more people followed the example of Acton, Holloway and the volunteers who have done so much for Greenwood Cemetery.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 20 September 1998, p1A:

Volunteers fix history, tombstones

Sons of Confederate Veterans aid restoration of Greenwood Cemetery

By Tracy McQueen, Messenger-Inquirer

Using duct tape, wax paper and a special epoxy, those who gathered at Greenwood Cemetery on Saturday were rebuilding history - one tombstone at a time.

Charles and Robert Tharp of Farmer City, Ill., came to the cemetery on Leitchfield Road to teach volunteers how to repair and restore headstones.

They worked carefully, using crushed stone, not concrete, to level the headstones. They used duct tape to make sure the epoxy stayed only where it was needed.

Two volunteers held the headstone of Alfred Buckner, while another applied epoxy to the base. By the end of the day, the stone was back in place marking Buckner's grave as it has since 1918.

"It's not going anywhere," Charles Tharp said.

Greenwood Cemetery is a predominantly African American cemetery that had been ignored for decades until a group led by Wesley Acton of Pleasant Ridge managed to reclaim it in 1996. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Forrest's Orphans Camp, joined Acton and others when the work first began.

"We got together, and we've been working together ever since," said Fred Wilhite of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

More than 600 people are buried there, including some Civil War veterans from the Confederate and Union armies.

Since there is no group dedicated to Union veterans in the area, Wilhite said members of his group work to preserve all aspects of Civil War history.

The six-acre cemetery was used from 1906 to 1974.

Until two years ago, brush was so thick in some areas that historic headstones barely could be seen. Debris covered many of the graves. Many tombstones lay face down.

Although there is still more work to be done, the cemetery is a different place today.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans arranged the Tharps' visit. Wilhite called the Tharp brothers after reading about their restoration efforts in a magazine.

"I saw real quick it was too involved to learn over the telephone," Wilhite said.

So he invited them to visit Greenwood. Acton estimated that about 40 volunteers came to help Saturday. Ole South Barbeque donated lunch.

Volunteers spent more of their time resetting toppled stones Saturday. Later this fall, volunteers will use tips they learned for cleaning the stones.

Charles Tharp said the cleaning formula is simple - a mixture of equal parts water and bleach. "It will clean anything." Volunteers work from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. each

Monday at the cemetery. Beginning on Oct. 10, they also will work there from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Saturday.

With the help of crews from the Daviess County Detention Center and several organizations, including the Boy Scouts, the cemetery looks like a cemetery again. Acton said more work needs to be done, including removing several stumps.

Overall, volunteers such as Emily Holloway of Owensboro are pleased with the progress.

"This place has really changed," Holloway said.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 6 October 1998, p4C:



Utterly stumped: Michael Turner of Whitesville, an employee of Lanham Brothers General Contractors, rips up a stump from Greenwood Cemetery on Monday. "There's some pretty awesome stumps coming out of here. You've got to pay attention, or you'll be on top of a monument, though," Turner said. Lanham Brothers donated the use of the backhoe and Turner's time for two days to help clear the cemetery. "We still need volunteers and donations," said Wesley Acton, who is organizing the cemetery cleanup. For more information about the cemetery cleanup, call Acton at 274-4511 or Emily Holloway at 683-7391.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 16 November 1998, pp1A & 2A:

Cemetery restoration finished
Trash, brush gone at neglected Greenwood
By Tracy McQueen, Messenger-Inquirer

There were days when it seemed the work would never end and help would never come, but Wesley Acton would never give up.

Over the past two years, Acton of Pleasant Ridge has worked steadily to uncover the history of Greenwood Cemetery. He and others cut through tangled brush and snarled trees to restore the cemetery off Leitchfield Road.

After more than 100 Saturdays of work and help from more than 200 volunteers, the cleanup is complete.

"I'm very pleased," Acton said. "I'm very happy that so many people have helped out."

Greenwood Cemetery had been a forgotten place. The brush was so thick that it didn't look like a cemetery at all.

Emily Holloway of Owensboro said she spent three months searching before she even found her family's graves.

"My mother used to cry about this place, because it was in such bad shape," she said.

Acton, Holloway and others formed the Greenwood Restoration Committee with hopes that one day it would look as it does today.

The brush has been cleared. The trees have been thinned. The trash that littered some graves is gone.

"It is truly unbelievable," Holloway said.

The cemetery was the burial place for many African Americans from the Owensboro area. The first burial there was in 1906, the last in 1974. There are hundreds of graves there, spread over approximately six acres.

The lack of maintenance is attributed to a dispute among the heirs to the property and confusion about who actually owns the cemetery. There had been cleanup efforts before, but never like this one.

"I was determined that I was not going to let this project fail," Acton said.

The first cleanup day in October 1996 attracted about 50 volunteers. The Sons of Confederate Veterans formed an alliance with the restoration committee that would last throughout the cleanup.

"They were the first group who called," Holloway said. "They knew that we needed help, and it was major muscles that we needed."

Students from Brescia University, Owensboro Catholic High and other schools volunteered their time. Progress was slow but steady.

Sometimes Acton worked with an army of volunteers. Other times, he was alone.

"This has been a very long, hard struggle," Holloway said. "There have been times when the spirits were low and everyone was very tired."

The spring of 1997 was one of the low points. The brush returned faster than the volunteers.

"It came so fast," Holloway said.

Acton became discouraged.

"I told Emily, 'Either this thing is going to flop or we've got to get some help,'" he said.

Acton contacted Daviess County Jailer Harold Taylor, who sent community service inmates to help with the work.

"They were here for 16 months," Acton said.

Acton, a retired school teacher, went everywhere looking for help. Many of his former students volunteered.

Some gave a few hours. Some were there week after week.

But some of the jobs were just too big for the tools the volunteers brought from home. Businesses such as Lanham Brothers General Contracting and Consolidated Mechanical donated heavy equipment and people who knew how to operate it.

The restoration committee received about \$2,500 in donations, usually in contributions of \$50 or \$100.

"What I am so proud of is that this is a grass-roots project," Holloway said.

Ironically, Acton has no family buried in the cemetery. He became concerned about it after a friend had asked him to care for some graves there.

"He couldn't understand why anyone who walk off and leave this," Holloway said.

Many couldn't understand. The Rev. R.L. McFarland's parents are among those buried at Greenwood.

"It makes me feel sad, I tell you," McFarland said during a visit more than two years ago.

McFarland said it's hard to believe it is the same place today.

"Any person that didn't know would be amazed at what has been done there," McFarland said. "It makes me feel better." Now that the cleanup is complete, Holloway hopes that now the descendents of those buried there will help maintain the cemetery.

"We've very proud of it," she said. "I just think that God has blessed us."



Golden Acton, left, and Harold Rowan replace a headstone Saturday in Greenwood Cemetery. The two men stabilized the foundation under the gravestone with gravel and bricks to keep it from sinking or shifting. Several volunteers came Saturday to help clean up the cemetery, an effort that has continued for the past two years. Many of the headstones are broken, but the Greenwood Restoration Committee, headed by Wesley Acton, hopes they can be refurbished. Below: This 1920 cracked gravestone in Greenwood Cemetery was repaired by volunteers, but there are many more that lie broken.



City of Owensboro
Kentucky

January 7, 1999

Mr. Jerry Long
Davies County Library
Kentucky Room
450 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42301

Dear Mr. Long:

The Mayor's Award for Excellence will be presented to Emily Holloway, for her efforts to restore and maintain the Greenwood Cemetery. The awards ceremony will be held on January 26, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. in the fourth floor Commission Chambers of City Hall in Owensboro, Kentucky.

This Award for Excellence is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual, or organization, by the City of Owensboro and will be presented to eight individuals for their accomplishments that have brought a true sense of community to Owensboro.

We extend a personal invitation to you to attend this special occasion to honor Ms. Holloway for her achievements. The ceremony will be held from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. with a reception immediately following.

We hope that you will be able to join us on January 26.

Sincerely,
Waymond O. Morris
Mayor



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 27 January 1999, p1C

8 given city hall's highest honor

By Tracy McQueen, Messenger-Inquirer

A retired teacher, a doctor, a college student and a school superintendent were among those honored Tuesday during the 11th annual Mayor's Awards for Excellence ceremony.

Wesley Acton and Emily Holloway were honored for excellence in volunteer service....

The mayor's award is city hall's highest honor. Mayor Waymond Morris said all of the recipients have made outstanding contributions.

"It was very difficult this year. We had a lot of good nominations," Morris said. "There have been so many people in our community who have contributed." Acton and

Holloway were honored for their "tireless and unselfish efforts" to restore Greenwood Cemetery, Morris said. The cemetery off Old Leitchfield Road had become overgrown and littered with debris to the point it didn't look like a cemetery at all.

Acton and Holloway organized a two-year cleanup. They mobilized volunteers from area schools, civic organizations, businesses and individuals. Many volunteers were former students of Acton, who is a retired teacher.

Morris said the restoration could not have happened without the dedication of Acton and Holloway....



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.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 30 May 1999, p1A & !C:

Cemetery dead honored during memorial

By John Martin, Messenger-Inquirer

Although her grandfather is buried there, Jean Coleman never really wanted to visit Greenwood Cemetery before.

"I never had any desire to come," she said. "It was full of weeds."

Emily Holloway took the description even further: "We started out with a jungle out here. ... We were afraid to even drive around."

"No more than a dozen tombstones could be observed," added Bill Moore.

That was the scene at Greenwood Cemetery only three years ago.

But Saturday, looking at the cemetery's rolling green slopes glistening under a blanket of May sunshine, you'd never know that.

Thanks to the efforts of several individuals and groups, Greenwood Cemetery is once again a clean and dignified resting place. At a memorial service Saturday, some of those who worked to make it that way gathered to give thanks and pay respects to the cemetery's dead.

Coleman visited the graveside of her grandfather, who died when she was 9.

Flags were placed at the graves of veterans, some of whom fought in the Civil War. The

Rev. Tyrone Patrick said the green slopes dotted with headstones "reminds us that our days are numbered and that we must live the way God wants us to live."

And the group prayed that the Leitchfield Road cemetery, which contains hundreds of gravesites of mostly African American Daviess Countians, will never fall into such sorry disrepair again. "We pray that there will be those who take up the task," said Moore, a member of the cemetery's restoration committee.

Holloway and Wesley Acton co-chair the restoration committee. Both were given the Owensboro Mayor's Awards for Excellence earlier this year for their efforts.

But Holloway said that for her, motivation to make the cemetery beautiful again came easy. Her grandparents and a few other relatives are buried there. "My mother would get so upset about this place," she said.

Countless other people also helped bring Greenwood back, she and Acton said. Daviess County Detention Center work crews, Sons of Confederate Veterans Forrest's Orphans Camp, Brescia University volunteers, high school and elementary school volunteers, Boy Scouts and city and county governments were among those who donated either cash or labor. "We had a cross-section of the community," Holloway said.

The restoration efforts started with just a handful of people who brought their own clippers and yard tools from home. Holloway said that three years later, despite the significant progress, the restoration committee still needs donations to help maintain the cemetery.

Workers are at the site from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Saturday mowing, pulling weeds and doing whatever else needs done. Contributions ranging from money to labor to food and cold drinks for the workers are welcomed, Holloway said.

Acton said Greenwood is a good example of a community pulling together and getting something done. He only wishes it could've happened sooner: "This could've been done 20 years ago."

Still, Acton looked with pride Saturday at the fruits of his own labor and that of many others. "It's not yard smooth," he said, "but it's smoother than it was."



Golden Acton Sr. chops at a tree root Saturday afternoon before the start of a Memorial Day service at Greenwood Cemetery. The cemetery had been completely overgrown until a group of volunteers cleared away the brush and began caring for the area.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 27 December 2000, p2A:

Volunteers fear sale of cemetery

Petition could lead to February auction of Greenwood Cemetery

By Matthew Francis, Messenger-Inquirer

When Wesley Acton first began going to Greenwood Cemetery, it looked more like a jungle than a proper burial place, he said.

Tombstones lay broken throughout the grounds, camouflaged by the tangled brush and trees that had overtaken the nearly six-acre landscape. Those not lost in the brush were covered by scrap lumber, plastic pipe and other trash dumped at the cemetery.

"I continued to harp on the subject - that it needed to be cleaned up - until finally I said nobody else is going to do it, so I organized a group," said Acton, a retired teacher. "The first day they thought it was going to be an impossible task, but I wouldn't let it die down."

The group he organized in 1996 was the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee who, over 100 Saturdays using more than 200 volunteers, completed the cemetery's cleanup. For their work, Acton and volunteer Emily Holloway were honored in January 1999 with the Mayor's Award for Excellence.

Nearly two years later, the group fears their work may have been in vain.

A petition is pending in Daviess Circuit Court that would allow Greenwood Cemetery to be auctioned at the courthouse doors in February. The group fears that the new owner may be more interested in the property, which borders Parrish Avenue off Leitchfield Road, than in maintaining the burial plots.

"If somebody gets it who isn't interested in maintaining the cemetery, all that work they have done will be forgotten, and it will go back to looking like the jungle it was some time ago," said Russell Jones, an attorney representing Holloway.

Greenwood Cemetery is the burial place for more than 600 people, including many Owensboro area blacks and veterans of the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, as well Civil War veterans from the Confederate and Union armies. It was used between 1906 and 1974.

Groups from Owensboro Catholic and Daviess County high schools, Brescia University and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Forrest's Orphans Camp, were among those who helped to restore the cemetery. The labor was done by volunteers, equipment was donated and about \$2,500 was raised for supplies.

Its decline was blamed on a dispute among the heirs to the property and confusion about who actually owns the cemetery. It was organized in 1906 by 40 stockholders, but their charter expired in 1957, Jones said. The cemetery is now owned by two people, who have rights to 40 percent of the grounds, and between 1,000 and 2,000 other heirs, who own the remaining 60 percent.

The two who own the minority share live out of town and were not available for comment. Neither Acton nor Holloway has an ownership interest in the cemetery, but Holloway said she has ancestors buried there.

Only about 100 of the heirs have been located, and none have pushed for a sale, Jones said. But the two heirs who own 40 percent of the land have filed a petition for an auction, which could come as early as February.

In hopes of ensuring the burial ground is properly maintained by its new owners, Jones wrote a letter to city officials asking that the city consider purchasing the cemetery.

"They have approached us about buying the cemetery," said City Manager Ron Payne. "I have discussed it with the mayor and commissioners, but there has been no decision made about it."

Acton said he hopes the land is not sold. But if it is, it's not so much who buys it but what they do with it that matters, he said.

"Whoever purchases it, I want to see that it is kept clean," he said. "My main concern is what will happen to all the hard work we put into cleaning it up."



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 24 January 2001, pp1A & 2A:

City may purchase historic cemetery

Six acres that contain no graves would be available for business

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

Owensboro officials are discussing a deal that could preserve historic Greenwood Cemetery and open six acres along busy East Parrish Avenue for development.

Two people who own stock in the company that developed the cemetery between Leitchfield Road and East Parrish Avenue in 1906 have filed suit in Daviess Circuit Court, seeking to have the cemetery auctioned at the courthouse door. That could come as early as late February.

Attorney Russel Jones, who represents the 1,000 to 2,000 people who own the remainder of the stock, said more than 600 people are buried on five of the cemetery's 11 acres.

The remaining six acres contain no graves, he said.

Those six acres are along East Parrish Avenue across from Kight Home Center and are ripe for development, Jones said.

He said local heirs are concerned that if the property is sold to a developer, the graves would not be maintained.

The ideal solution, Jones said, would be for the city to buy the entire 11 acres and then sell the six acres along East Parrish to a developer. The money from the sale could be put into a trust fund to maintain the cemetery, he said.

Jones said there is no way to estimate how much the property would bring. State law requires that the purchaser of a cemetery maintain the property forever.

"That restriction would significantly reduce the value of the property," he said. "But it would just be a wild guess how much someone would pay for it."

City Manager Ron Payne said city officials are considering buying the land.

"We're checking to see if we could do that," Payne said. "The property is actually in the county. But if we buy it, we would annex it and be able to collect the taxes after it's developed."

Daviess County Judge-Executive Reid Haire said the cemetery group has not approached Daviess Fiscal Court about buying the property.

"We've not been contacted," he said. "I'm not familiar with what's happening there."

Greenwood Cemetery was last used for a burial in 1974 and had become largely abandoned by the 1980s. Tombstones were broken and hidden by tangled brush and trees that covered the property. Scrap lumber, plastic pipe and other trash also littered the cemetery.

In 1996, 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 January 1999, Wesley Acton and Emily Holloway were honored with the Mayor's Award for Excellence for spearheading the project.

"It will take money to maintain the cemetery," Jones said. "And we're concerned that a business might not want to spend the money to maintain it. The city could set the money from the sale of the six acres aside and use it for maintenance. We think that may be the best solution."

Jones said Greenwood was developed by a corporation that sold 100 shares of stock. Its charter expired in 1957 and hasn't been renewed.

But two people, who live out of state, now own 40 percent of the stock and want the property sold so they can get the money, he said.

The remaining stock is owned by between 1,000 and 2,000 people – only about 100 of whom have been located.

"It's extremely difficult to track them down," Jones said.

Payne said the city is waiting to see if the judge will order the property sold before making a decision on buying it.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 30 January 2001, p5A:

Editorial – City should consider purchasing cemetery

The people whose sweat and concern turned Greenwood Cemetery from a forgotten, overgrown mess into a place of respect for the dead have a right to be worried.

Two people who own stock in the company that developed the cemetery in 1906 have filed suit to have the property auctioned. Greenwood supporters fear that another owner may not maintain the cemetery, believing that a state law that requires its upkeep is too weak to enforce.

One solution proposed is to have the city of Owensboro buy the entire 11 acres, then resell the six acres that have no graves to a developer.

We believe that is sound logic, with a few conditions.

Russel Jones, an attorney who represents more than 1,000 local people who own stock in the cemetery, said the six acres with no graves are perfect for development, because they are in a prime location on East Parrish Avenue across from the Kight Home Center.

A city purchase would be beneficial if those six acres are truly valuable to a developer. An objective look at the property's marketability is essential before the city considers its purchase. The last result needed is for property to be taken off county tax rolls at taxpayer expense, then sit in the hands of city government for years because it has little value.

Having the city as owner would assure that the cemetery is properly maintained. Jones' recommendation was that proceeds from the sale of the land go toward a fund specifically for the upkeep of the property.

No one has been buried in Greenwood Cemetery since 1974, but it is the resting place for more than 600 people, including many Owensboro- area blacks and veterans of the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, as well as Civil War veterans from the Confederate and Union armies. It took more than 200 volunteers two years to clean up the trash and clear the brush from the cemetery, which had been abandoned in the 1980s.

As is evident in the case of Rogers Cemetery in Ohio County, where a controversy over a recommendation to move the overgrown burial site was settled last week, if it is not someone's job to maintain a cemetery, it often does not happen.

The upside for the city of buying the property is the six vacant acres would be annexed into the city limits. Once they were resold and developed, the acreage would provide a source of tax revenue in perpetuity.

We urge the city to investigate whether it would be a wise use of tax money to buy the cemetery. The Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee should not have to worry that its generosity of spirit was wasted.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 8 May 2001, p1B:

Cemetery's maintenance a concern

Group meets with county officials to discuss Greenwood Cemetery's future

By James Mayse, Messenger-Inquirer

A group of residents concerned about Greenwood Cemetery's future is unhappy about plans to sell the cemetery at public auction this month.

The residents met Monday with county officials to discuss ways to ensure the cemetery will be maintained.

The cemetery, which is part of a 16-acre tract at Leitchfield Road and East Parrish Avenue, will be sold at a master commissioner sale May 21. The property was ordered auctioned by Daviess Circuit Court after two people who own stock in the company that developed the cemetery filed suit to have the land auctioned. Although 1,000 to 2,000 people own stock in the company, the two pressing for the auction own 40 percent of the stock. Only about 100 of the remaining stockholders have been located.

No one has been buried in the cemetery since 1974, but it contains about 600 graves, some dating back to the Spanish-American War. After the cemetery was abandoned in the 1980s, it became overgrown with vegetation and a dumping ground for trash.

"It was a wilderness," said Wesley Acton, who led the drive to clean up the cemetery. "It was a jungle - grown-up vines, trees and bushes, and people had thrown trash all over the place."

Volunteers began cleaning the site in 1996, Acton said, and the work took four years. Now, Acton said he is concerned the new owner will not maintain the site.

Daviess County Judge-Executive Reid Haire said he met with Acton and other members of the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee to "take a look and determine if this is something Daviess County Fiscal Court might want to become involved in," and "if the county government can play a role in preserving that cemetery."

The cemetery covers 11 of the 16 acres up for sale. The remaining five acres "may be very valuable" for development, Haire said. Haire said he had not determined if the county would be able to take any action concerning the cemetery.

In January, Owensboro officials announced they would consider purchasing the property. On Monday, City Manager Ron Payne said city commissioners had decided not to pursue the issue.

"There were too many hurdles to jump," Payne said.

Commissioners questioned how the property would be maintained, whether the rest of the land could be developed and how the city would purchase property outside city limits, Payne said.

"It was going to be a lot complicated," he said.

Russel Jones, an Owensboro attorney who represents some of the stockholders, said state statute mandates that every cemetery be maintained by its owner.

"The statute is very plain," Jones said. But people concerned about the property are afraid a new property owner will ignore the statute, Jones said.

"I think it's a statute that's very difficult to enforce," Acton said.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 22 May 2001, pp1B & 3B:

County buys Greenwood Cemetery

Unused section at Parrish Avenue to be sold for development, judge-executive says

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

Daviess Fiscal Court paid \$25,000 Monday for historic Greenwood Cemetery to ensure its preservation.

Daviess County Judge-Executive Reid Haire said the county's winning bid at the auction was almost as high as he was prepared to go.

"It was quickly reaching the point where we were going to have to drop out," Haire said. "I'm glad we were able to get it."

The idea, he said, is for the county to sell five unused acres fronting busy East Parrish Avenue and use that money to create a trust fund to ensure that the six acres of graves are maintained forever.

"This is a wonderful thing for the county to do," said Russel Jones, who represents more than 1,000 people who own stock in the cemetery. "This is prime land, and it should bring a good price for the county. This means the cemetery will be preserved."

Jones said the Kentucky General Assembly may have to give permission to subdivide the cemetery, so part of it can be sold for development. But he said that shouldn't be a problem.

Monday's auction was ordered after two people who own stock in the company that developed the cemetery between Leitchfield Road and East Parrish Avenue in 1906 filed suit seeking the sale.

Jones, who represents the rest of the stockholders, said more than 600 people are buried in the cemetery.

Descendants of those buried in the cemetery feared that if a developer bought it, the graves would not be maintained - even though state law requires it.

Greenwood Cemetery was last used for a burial in 1974 and had become largely abandoned by the 1980s. Tombstones were broken and hidden by tangled brush and trees that covered the property. Scrap lumber, plastic pipe and other trash also littered the cemetery.

In 1996, 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 January 1999, Wesley Acton and Emily Holloway were honored with the Mayor's Award for Excellence for spearheading the project.

Both were at Monday's sale. The county's purchase of the cemetery was the best outcome possible, they said.

Jones said Greenwood was developed by a corporation that sold 100 shares of stock. Its charter expired in 1957 and hasn't been renewed.

But two people, who live out of state, asked that the property be sold at auction so they could get their money.

Jones said the next round of legal action will determine how the \$25,000 is divided among the stockholders.

Bidding began at \$1 and rose slowly. Holloway made a couple of early bids. But it quickly became a contest between the county and attorney Septtimous Taylor, bidding by telephone on behalf of clients.

Taylor said his clients were only interested in the Parrish Avenue property.

"They would have donated the cemetery to the county or whoever wanted to preserve it," he said. "But once we knew it was going to the county, we were satisfied. They got a windfall."

Memorial Day services are planned for noon Saturday at Greenwood. At least 55 veterans are buried there. A dozen or so of them served in the Civil War.



Daviess County, KY Deed Book 738, pp.568-573:

MASTER COMMISSIONER'S DEED

WHEREAS, in the action number 86-CI-012!57, Division II, pending in the Daviess Circuit Court, in the case of Mary Fisher Morris, Florence Barker Perkins, Yvonne Plummer, Lloyd A. Watts, Inez Agnew Woods, on behalf of themselves and all other shareholders of Greenwood Cemetery Association Inc., descendants, heirs, assignees and legatees and all others similarly situated, against The Estate of Frank Claybrooks and The Estate of T.N. Loving, and any unknown heirs, devisees, and successors of Frank Claybrooks and T.N. Loving, and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the complaint adverse to Plaintiffs' ownership or any cloud upon plaintiffs' title thereto; Emily H. Holloway; Maxine H. Kirkwood; Joseph Henry Tinsley Jr.; Irene Kendall; Joanne Tinsley Kendall; French D. Pope Sr., an Order was entered on the 27th day of March, 2001, directing the Master Commissioner of said Court to expose for sale at public auction the property hereinafter described; and whereas, said property was sold in accordance with said Order on the 21st day of May, 2001, for the sum of Twenty-five Thousand and 00/100 (\$25,000.00) Dollars; and whereas, the Report of said sale was confirmed by said Court on the 24th day of July, 2001, and on the 24th day of July, 2001, an order was entered directing the Commissioner to execute a deed of conveyance of said property to Daviess County, a political division of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, its successors and assigns.

NOW, THEREFORE, this indenture, made and entered into this 24th day of July, 2001, between Mary Fisher Morris, Florence Barker Perkins, Yvonne Plummer, Lloyd A. Watts, Inez Agnew Woods, on behalf of themselves and all other shareholders of Greenwood Cemetery Association Inc., descendants, heirs, assignees and legatees and all others similarly situated; The Estate of Frank Claybrooks and The Estate of T.N. Loving,

and any unknown heirs, devisees, and successors of Frank Claybrooks and T.N. Loving, and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the complaint adverse to Plaintiffs' ownership or any cloud upon plaintiffs' title thereto; Emily H. Holloway; Maxine H. Kirkwood; Joseph Henry Tinsley Jr.; Irene Kendall; Joanne Tinsley Kendall; French D. Pope Sr., and the Master Commissioner of said Court, First Parties, and Daviess County, a political division of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, its successors and assigns, Second Party

WITNESSETH: That for and in consideration of the premises, and for the further consideration of the full payment of the purchase price aforesaid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the First Parties, by John H. Helmers as Master Commissioner, have sold and by this writing do convey to said Second Party, and its successors and assigns, the following described property, to wit:

Located about 1/2 mile East from the City of Owensboro, KY, on the Leitchfield Road 16 acres of land a part of a 25 3/4 acre lot, the 25 3/4 acre lot of J. and is described as follows: Beginning at a stake in the south margin of the Leitchfield Road opposite the southwest corner of the Hebrew Cemetery lot, thence with said line N. 53 W. 110 poles to a stake or stone corner to the Howard Hathway line thence with same S. 30 1/2 W. 62 poles to a stake in the Leitchfield Road thence S. 70 B. 49 1/2 poles to a stake thence N 46 E. 8 poles to a stake thence S. 77 B. 52 1/2 poles to a stake in the Leitchfield Road, thence S. 86 E. 9 poles to the point of beginning, but out of this boundary is excepted 9 3/4 acres which was conveyed by Henry C. Herr and wife to Austin Montgomery by deed of record in the Daviess County Court Clerk's Office in deed book "Z" page 551. The tract of land herein conveyed is the same conveyed party of the first part by E.W. Moore, by deed recorded in deed book 80 at page 571 of the Daviess County Court Clerk's Office.

There is excepted from the above description off conveyances set forth in Deed Book 82, at page 447, Deed Book 91, at page 74, and Right-of-Way Deed to the Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the new Highway 54 (East Parrish Avenue) of record in Deed Book 560, at page 545, in the Office of the Daviess County Clerk.

AND BEING the same property conveyed to Greenwood Cemetery Association Inc. from E.W. Moore by deed dated February 20, 1906, and of record in Deed Book 80, at page 571, Office of the Daviess County Clerk.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said property together with the rights and privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging unto the Second Party, and its successors and assigns, the First Parties by said John H. Helmers, Master Commissioner, hereby covenant with the Second Party that he will warrant and defend the title of the land and premises hereby conveyed against the claims of all persons whosoever insofar as required by law to do.

IN TESTIMONY THEREOF, said John H. Helmers, as Master Commissioner, has hereunto subscribed his name this 24th day of July, 2001.

Joh H. Helmers
Master Commissioner

Examined and approved this 25 day of July, 2001.
Thomas O. Castlen, Judge

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
DAVIESS CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

I, Susan Tierney, Clerk of the Daviess Circuit Court, do hereby certify that this deed from Mary Fisher Morris, Florence Barker Perkins, Yvonne Plummer, Lloyd A. Watts, Inez Agnew Woods, on behalf of themselves and all other shareholders of Greenwood Cemetery Association Inc., descendants, heirs, assignees and legatees and all others similarly situated; The Estate of Frank Claybrooks and The Estate of T.N. Loving, and any unknown heirs, devisees, and successors of Frank Claybrooks and T.N. Loving, and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real property described in the complaint adverse to Plaintiffs' ownership or any cloud upon plaintiffs' title thereto; Emily H. Holloway; Maxine H. Kirkwood; Joseph Henry Tinsley Jr.; Irene Kendall; Joanne Tinsley Kendall; French D. Pope Sr., by John H. Helmers, Master Commissioner of said Court, to Daviess County, a political division of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, its successors and assigns, was presented in Court by said John H. Helmers, Master Commissioner, and was by him duly acknowledged to be his act and deed.

And the said deed having been examined by the Court, was approved and confirmed, and so endorsed by the Judge and ordered to be transmitted, duly certified, to the Clerk of the Daviess Circuit Court for record, which is now done accordingly.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of July, 2001.

Attest: SUSAN W. TIERNEY,
Clerk, Circuit Court
By: A. Blandford
Deputy Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF DAVIESS

I, Mike Libs, Clerk of the Daviess County Court, do hereby certify that the foregoing Deed from John H. Helmers, Master Commissioner of the Daviess Circuit Court, to Daviess County, a political division of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, its successors and assigns was produced to me in my office and certified as above for record.

WHEREUPON the same and the foregoing, and this certificate, have been recorded in my office.

Witness my hand, this 2 of August 2001.

Mike Libs
Count Court Clerk
Betty Libs
Deputy Clerk

CONSIDERATION CERTIFICATE

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the consideration reflected in this deed is the full consideration paid for the property.

FIRST PARTY: John H. Helmers, Master Commissioner

SECOND PARTY: Reid Haire, Daviess County, Kentucky

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

COUNTY OF DAVIESS

The foregoing Consideration Certificate was acknowledged and sworn to before me by John H. Helmer, s er Commissioner, First Party, this 24th day of July, 2001.

Paulette Boran?
Notary Public, State-at-Large
My commission expires 12-06-2002

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF DAVIESS

The foregoing Consideration Certificate was acknowledged and sworn to before me by Reid Haire, Daviess Co. Judge Executive for and on behalf of Daviess County, Kentucky, Second Party, this 31 day of July, 2001.

Jennifer C. Warren
Notary Public, State-at-Large
My commission expires: 9-19-2001
John H. Helmers,
Master Commissioner
Daviess County Judicial Center
100 East Second St., Room 386
Owensboro, KY, 42303

Prepared By:

[ed. note – Plat of Greenwood Cemetery was recorded in Daviess County Plat Book 31, page 19, on 13 March 2002.]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 6 June 2001, p3B:

DIGEST – Daviess Fiscal Court

At its meeting Tuesday at the Daviess County Courthouse, Daviess Fiscal Court took the following actions:

- Approval the purchase Greenwood Cemetery for \$25,000.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 11 July 2001, pp1B & 3B:

State officials tour area cemetery
Chandler wants to restore, preserve state burial grounds

By Lydia Carrico, Messenger-Inquirer

Wesley Acton doesn't have any relatives buried in Greenwood Cemetery, where many blacks were laid to rest before the 1970s. But when he saw the sunken graves, broken headstones and foliage thick as a jungle, he spearheaded a mission in 1996 to preserve the 16-acre plot of ground on Leitchfield Road and its heritage.



Kentucky State Rep. Reginald Meeks, right, gestures as he talks about a headstone with Attorney General Ben Chandler and Wesley Acton, left, Tuesday afternoon at Greenwood Cemetery. The headstone marks the grave of Richard Hardesty, a member of the Union's 122nd Colored Infantry in the Civil War. Chandler and members of the state's Task Force on Preservation of Kentucky Cemeteries are visiting the state's cemeteries to look at their conditions and come up with ideas for keeping them up. Meeks is the chairman of the task force. Acton led the effort to preserve the 16-acre black cemetery.

On Tuesday, he walked the freshly mowed hills with Kentucky Attorney General Ben Chandler and local officials to survey restoration efforts.

"This was a hands-on activity," Acton told Chandler. "There weren't any bulldozers out here."

Chandler and members of the state's Task Force on Preservation of Kentucky Cemeteries are visiting the state's cemeteries to look at their conditions and draw up a plan to restore and maintain them.

State Rep. Reginald Meeks, chairman of the task force, said cemeteries chart the state's history. And preserving them will help residents understand the past.

"All of them are pages of our history," he said.

The idea to create the task force was born out of concern for a cemetery in Louisville, where grass grew as high as cars and some sites were filled three bodies deep, Chandler said. Human bones were exposed at one Louisville site.

Many of the state's 917 cemeteries the group has identified are in need of upkeep. And the task force, developed in May, is charged with collecting information on them to present in a report to Chandler by Sept. 30. He will then forward it to legislators.

Chandler wants to earmark \$1.2 million from settlement cases to help preserve the state's cemeteries, but first he must persuade legislators of the need, he said.

The need was pretty great at Greenwood, opened in 1905, before Acton and a team of volunteers came along. Volunteers from several schools, business and the Boy Scouts cut down trees around the 600 grave sites. They tore out stumps and leveled sunken graves.

"I feel very proud and feel like the project was an overwhelming success," Acton said.

Daviess Fiscal Court bought the property at auction in May for \$25,000 after Acton contacted it for help with maintenance.

Judge-Executive Reid Haire said many people had been interested in buying the property, mainly for the six acres that borders Kentucky 54, but they didn't want the responsibility of the cemetery. The county by law would have been responsible for the upkeep, so it voted to buy it, Haire said.

The county is checking with the state to see if it can sell the six acres and use those funds to set up a trust fund to maintain the cemetery. Property in that area is selling for about \$80,000 to \$90,000 an acre, Haire said.

Money the restoration committee that Acton co-chairs raised is being used to maintain the cemetery, but Acton said there is "not much" left.

Lt. Gov. Steve Henry has asked the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to kick in an unspecified amount of funding to help in the upkeep, he said in a telephone interview.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 3 February 2002, p.2G:

PUBLIC NOTICE
DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT
INVITATION TO BIDDERS
PARRISH AVENUE EAST PROPERTY
(7.048 ACRES) BID NO. 05-2002

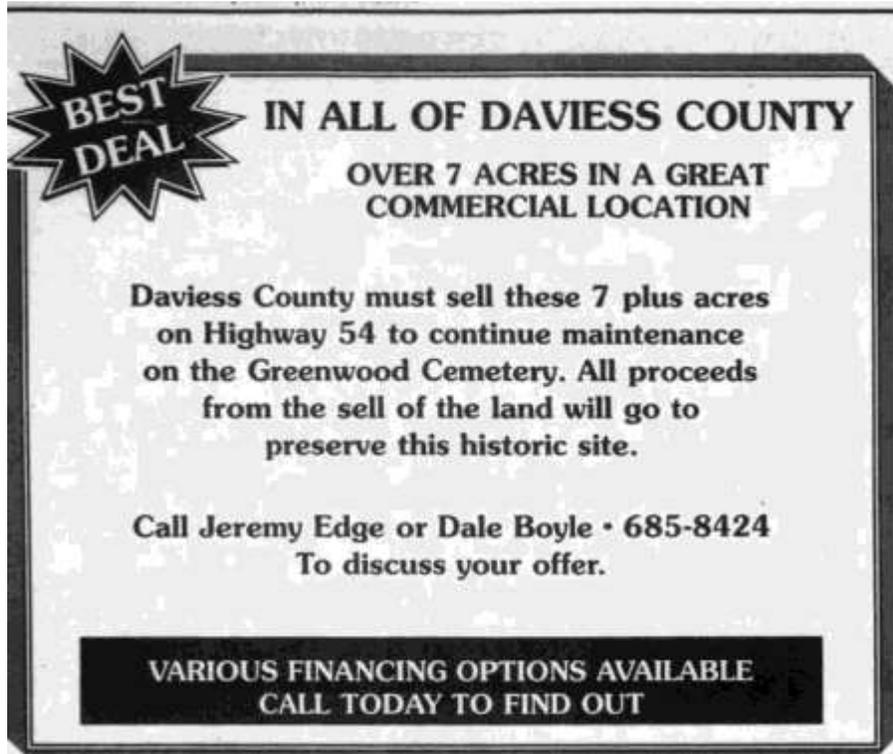
The Daviess County Fiscal Court offers to the public for sale by sealed bids a 7.048 acre tract of land located at 2000 East Parrish Avenue, Owensboro, Kentucky, and more particularly described in Plat Book 31, at page 19, in the office of the Daviess County Court Clerk. Said property is a portion of the Greenwood Cemetery property recently acquired by the Daviess County Fiscal Court. Said tract will be sold by General Warranty Deed without restrictions other than the restrictions imposed by law on real estate such as regulations of the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission. Separate sealed bids will be received by the Daviess County Fiscal Court, Daviess County Courthouse, 212 St. Ann Street, Room 202, Owensboro, Kentucky 42302, or by mailing the bid to the Daviess County Fiscal Court, P.O. Box 1716, Owensboro, KY 42302-1716. The bids shall be opened and publicly read at the Daviess County Fiscal Court Office at 2:00 p-m. local time, on February 14, 2002. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. Bids must be received in a sealed envelope labeled with the bid number, identification of bid, and bidders name and address on the front of the envelope. Any bid which is not submitted as directed herein, may, at the discretion of the Fiscal Court, be rejected. The Fiscal Court of Daviess County reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any irregularities in bids and to accept what in their opinion, is the best evaluated bid. Ten percent (10) of bid amount is due within 24 hours of bid acceptance and award by Daviess County Fiscal Court and the balance of the purchase price is due at closing,

which shall take place upon Fiscal Court's ability to convey title through General Warranty Deed. Specifications and bidders must conform to all applicable Federal and State laws which govern such purchases. The Fiscal Court is exempt from Kentucky Sales Tax.

BY ORDER OF DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT
D. Dale Boyle Daviess County Purchasing Agent.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY,
23 March 2002, p7G and 24 March 2002, p6D:



BEST DEAL

IN ALL OF DAVIESS COUNTY

OVER 7 ACRES IN A GREAT COMMERCIAL LOCATION

Daviess County must sell these 7 plus acres on Highway 54 to continue maintenance on the Greenwood Cemetery. All proceeds from the sell of the land will go to preserve this historic site.

Call Jeremy Edge or Dale Boyle • 685-8424
To discuss your offer.

**VARIOUS FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE
CALL TODAY TO FIND OUT**



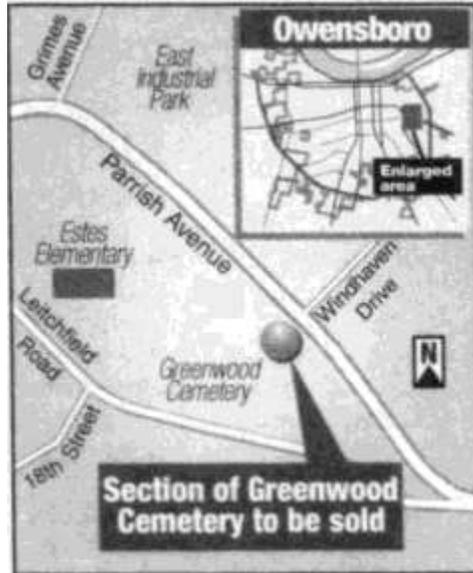
Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 26 March 2002, p1A:

County selling East Parrish land
Deal would pay for cemetery upkeep

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

If you're looking for commercial property in Owensboro, Daviess Fiscal Court has a deal for you.

Last May, the county bought the historic 11-acre Greenwood Cemetery at auction for \$25,000. But the cemetery covers only four acres.



And the seven-plus unused acres have frontage along East Parrish Avenue - just east of the city fire station and across from Windhaven Drive.

"It's a super location," said Jeremy Edge, the county's community development coordinator. "That's a heavily traveled street. Most of the county's growth is in that direction."

Edge said the county thinks it's found a good deal for developers interested in the property.

"We have about \$35,000 invested in the property," he said, "the \$25,000 that we paid for it plus surveying and mowing last season. We need to get that back and then put the rest of the money we get into a maintenance fund for the cemetery."

The county figures a perpetual maintenance fund would need an investment of \$180,000 to \$200,000, he said.

"We've got a couple of financing options available," Edge said.

The county would sell the seven acres for \$35,000 - if the buyer would donate \$180,000 to \$200,000 to the cemetery maintenance fund, he said.

The contribution to the cemetery fund would be tax deductible. And the assessed value of the property for tax purposes would be the \$35,000 purchase price.

"You're not going to get a better deal than that," Edge said.

The county would also consider a long-term lease, he said.

But the county doesn't want to wait too long to sell the property, Edge said. "Mowing season is almost here and it costs \$7,000 to \$8,000 a year to mow that property. We want to get it out of our hands."

The cemetery, located between Leitchfield Road and East Parrish Avenue, opened in 1906. More than 600 people are buried there, but the last burial was in 1974.

By the 1980s, the cemetery had become largely abandoned. Tombstones were broken and 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 January 1999, Wesley Acton and Emily Holloway were honored with the Mayor's Award for Excellence for spearheading the project.

Daviess County Judge-Executive Reid Haire said last year that the county bought the property to make sure the graves were well maintained in the future.

The sale of the seven acres should ensure that, Edge said.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 31 March 2002, p2E:

Editorial – Effort to preserve cemetery commendable

When the county purchased Greenwood Cemetery at auction in May, some quietly questioned why government would be interested in the burial ground that had been virtually ignored for decades.

At \$25,000, the 11 acres – commercial property that has frontage on East Parrish Avenue - was certainly a bargain. Some wondered if the county were more interested in turning a profit than rescuing the cemetery. Others questioned why, regardless of the cost, government would spend public money on the land.

It seems clear now that the answers to all these questions are that county officials simply saw it as the right thing to do. They should be commended for their commitment to preserving a landmark that obviously holds a great deal of significance to many in the community.

The cemetery covers about four acres of the property. County officials announced last week that they plan to increase efforts to sell the other seven acres, which are just east of the city fire station across from Windhaven Drive.

The county would sell the property for \$35,000 – the approximate amount invested including maintenance costs - providing the buyer agrees to donate \$180,000 to \$200,000, which would go into a fund for upkeep of the cemetery.

Under this scenario, the contribution to the cemetery would be considered tax-deductible, and the assessed value of the property for tax purposes would be only \$35,000.

It's a creative way of doing business that seems to benefit all parties involved.

The county wants to get the land off its books because mowing season is about to begin, and properly maintaining the property will cost about \$8,000 a year. At the same time, officials want to get a deal that ensures the viability of the cemetery.

Greenwood Cemetery, between Leitchfield Road and East Parrish Avenue, opened in 1906 but hasn't had a burial in nearly 30 years. More than 600 people are buried on the grounds, but for nearly two decades the cemetery went unattended.

If not for the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, formed in 1996, it's likely few would even know the cemetery exists. But the work of nearly 200 volunteers, who spent two years clearing brush and repairing grave markers, was an important example of how public involvement makes a community better.

Primarily a burial ground for blacks in the early 20th century, the restoration of Greenwood Cemetery was a project that crossed perceived racial barriers and brought a

core of individuals together intent on preserving a piece of Owensboro's past, not to mention providing a proper resting place for those buried on the land.

Through their efforts to help in the preservation, county officials have validated the importance of both the cemetery and the work of those who wouldn't let it fade from sight behind of wall of tangled brush and public indifference.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 18 May 2002, p1B:

Quality Beers to buy county land

By Steve Vied, Messenger-Inquirer

Daviess Fiscal Court has agreed to sell seven acres of land it owns on East Parrish Avenue to Quality Beers Distributing Co. of Owensboro.

Voting unanimously after a closed session Thursday, Fiscal Court accepted an offer of \$235,000 for a portion of the Greenwood Cemetery property.

Last year the county bought the 11-acre cemetery property for \$25,000 at auction. There are graves on only four acres of the property. The county's plan from the beginning was to sell the remaining seven acres and use the money from that sale to set up a trust fund that would be used to maintain the cemetery in perpetuity.

The offer by Quality Beers should be more than enough for that purpose, said Jeremy Edge, the county's community development coordinator. In addition to the \$25,000 purchase price, the county has spent \$10,000 on the property for various expenses, Edge said. Even at a low interest rate, the \$200,000 remaining will generate the \$6,000 to \$7,000 needed annually to maintain the cemetery, he said.

"We're excited about it," Edge said. "We think it worked out good for the Medleys (the company's operators) and Fiscal Court. The property will have to be leveled, but it's a high-profile property."

A local law firm made the only other bid on the property. The bid was \$185,000.

The seven acres has frontage along East Parrish just east of a city fire station and across from Windhaven Drive.

Edge said it was his understanding that Quality Beers plans to move its operation from 1010 E. Sixth St. to the East Parrish Avenue site. Dan Medley, vice president of the company, said Friday he had no comment.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 13 September 2002, pp1A & 2A;

Sale of Greenwood Cemetery land runs into snag
Grade on property too steep for Quality Beers

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

Daviess Fiscal Court hopes to finally sell the seven acres of Greenwood Cemetery that border East Parrish Avenue by the middle of next month.

The county thought it had sold the property in May to Quality Beers Distributing Co. for \$235,000.

But that deal fell apart when Quality Beers found the topography of the property wouldn't accommodate its planned distribution center.

"We tried every way we could think of to make it fit," Quality Beers President John Medley said. "But we couldn't. Parrish Avenue is so low there, and we can't have more than a 6 percent grade for our trucks."

Jeremy Edge, the county's community development coordinator, said Fiscal Court is now working with attorney John Bickel, who represents the second-highest bidders at the spring auction.

Bickel said Thursday that he expects his clients - who haven't been identified - to buy the property once the county has clear title to it. He said an announcement could come in the next two or three weeks.

Edge said the county has gone to court to make sure there are no problems with the title. "We should have a clear title in the next month to six weeks," he said.

In the meantime, Quality Beers is still searching for a location for its distribution center.

"We looked at another place that got a lot of attention," Medley said.

The company had selected a site at 3649 Wathens Crossing in Heritage Park - along Carter Road - this summer.

The Apollo Area Alliance, a neighborhood advisory group, protested the location as too near homes, churches and Apollo High School.

Medley said Quality Beers decided against that location because "what we liked about it was its high visibility. But planning and zoning was going to require too much screening."

Now, he said, the company is looking at two other locations. "We're getting close on one of them," Medley said.

Last year, Daviess Fiscal Court bought the historic 11-acre Greenwood Cemetery in an effort to preserve it.

There are graves on only four acres of the property. The county planned to sell the remaining property along East Parrish Avenue. Money from the sale is to be used to establish a trust fund for the cemetery's maintenance.

Edge estimated annual maintenance costs at \$6,000 to \$7,000.

The cemetery, between Leitchfield Road and East Parrish Avenue, opened in 1906. More than 600 people are buried there, but the last burial was in 1974.

By the 1980s, the cemetery had become largely abandoned. Tombstones were broken and 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.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 10 October 2002, pp1A & 2A:

**Quality Beers may move to Airpark
Deal with city isn't done, but it's close**

By Joy Campbell, Messenger-Inquirer

Quality Beers Distributing Co. likely will be moving its East Sixth Street operations to the Mid-America Airpark.

The company's president said Wednesday afternoon it's not a done deal, but he is hopeful the location will be final soon.

"A lot of details are being worked out, so I don't want to discuss it too much right now," said John Medley, Quality's president. "But it has been our intention to move to a larger facility, and we hope this works out."

A few details of the upcoming sale emerged Wednesday when City Manager Ron Payne advised the Owensboro City Commission during a work session that members will be asked to approve a purchase agreement with Quality when it meets again Tuesday.

The deal calls for the sale of six acres in the Airpark at the northeast corner of Airpark Drive and Southtown Boulevard. The purchase price is \$300,000 - \$50,000 per acre.

The deal is contingent upon approvals of the preliminary site plan from the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission and approval of other construction requirements.

"Some of the steps yet to be approved could be deal breakers (if not approved), but I'm hopeful," Medley said.

Quality has increased its employee base by 15 percent to 20 workers in the last year in anticipation of moving to a larger facility, Medley said.

The sellers – Owensboro, Daviess County and the industrial foundation – will be making infrastructure improvements to the lot, Payne said. The county will receive one-third of \$14,000 per acre, and the remaining amount will be used to pay for moving a drainage ditch, sewer work and other improvements. [Correction: The amount of money Daviess Fiscal Court will receive from the sale of six acres in Mid-America Air Park to Quality Beers Distributing Company was unclear in a story on page 1A Thursday. The county will get one-third of \$14,000 per acre or \$28,000.]

"The benefit for the city is being able to access \$108,000 in state access road funds that we will use to extend Airpark Drive," Payne said.

Quality is receiving no tax incentives for this project.

Quality thought it had found a new home in May when it tried to buy seven acres of Greenwood Cemetery that border East Parrish Avenue. The topography wouldn't work for the company's trucks.

The company also considered a site at 3649 Wathens Crossing in Heritage Park, but the company passed on that location because planning and zoning would have required significant screening, Medley said in an earlier interview. Neighbors also campaigned against the beer distribution center locating too close to their homes, churches and schools.

The Mid-America Airpark site goes before the OMPC tonight for final plat approval that creates the lot Quality wants to buy.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 22 February 2005, pp1A & 2A:

Cemetery property hits snag; tower could be removed

By 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.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 24 February 2005, pp1B &3B:

Daviess Fiscal Court: County planning economic summit

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

.... Fiscal Court members agreed to pay \$25,000 for an environmental survey of seven unused acres of Greenwood Cemetery along East Parrish Avenue.

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

The county hopes to sell that property to create a fund for the perpetual upkeep of the historic cemetery it bought four years ago.

Fiscal Court members also agreed to take bids on the removal of an abandoned 37-year-old communications tower in the cemetery.

The 150-foot tower is dangerous and needs to be replaced, Haire said.

A Christian radio station has agreed to tear down the tower, erect a new one and give the county space on the new tower for mobile data transmission for emergency services.

But commissioners decided to take bids to see if there are other interested parties.



**E-mail to Keith Lawrence (klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com)
Messenger-Inquirer, 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), 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



Phone call from Keith Lawrence, Messenger- Inquirer, 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, Thursday, 3 March 2005, pp1C & 3C:

Greenwood Cemetery is more crowded than thought
Graveyard 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.



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

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, Thursday, 7 July 2005, pp1A & 2A:

County awaiting word on property
Sale proceeds would help maintain cemetery
By James Mayse, Messenger-Inquirer

A grave at the eastern edge of Greenwood Cemetery on Leitchfield Road contains a simple inscription: "At Rest."

All of Greenwood was at rest Wednesday afternoon. A clump of trees blunted much of the drone of traffic on Leitchfield Road. The loudest noise in the old cemetery was the whistle of a song bird and the whir and buzz of a stray locust.

Across the cemetery, the grass was cut short, and the graves – except for one crumbled by age – were upright and straight. The stones were dappled with afternoon shade. Time had stopped, mostly: The last burial in the cemetery was nearly three decades ago, in 1976.

The cemetery is a resting place for perhaps 2,000 black Daviess County residents, with graves dating back to 1906. Greenwood's condition is a far cry from what it was just nine years ago, when the Greenwood Restoration Committee stepped in to clean the vandalized and overgrown property. Today, the property is owned, and maintained, by Daviess County government.

County officials want to sell seven acres adjacent to the site and use the proceeds to maintain the cemetery in the future. The county is now waiting for the state to rule on an environmental plan for the property.

Judge-Executive Reid Haire met last week with Tim Hubbard, state Superfund supervisor with the Kentucky Division of Waste Management, to discuss the results of the county-sponsored environmental study of the property.

"There are a couple spots on that seven acres where we might need to do some remediation," Haire said. " ... Based on the study, there were no real problems. They checked the ground water, and the ground water was safe."

Haire said the site the county wants to sell was once used as a dumping area by the city in the 1940s. "That was before there was plastic, so they didn't find any garbage," Haire said. "They didn't find any chemicals." The site was used to dispose of building materials and debris, Haire said.

The study did find a half-acre area where lead concentrations exceeded acceptable levels. "We would dig that out and ... haul it to our contained landfill," Haire said.

The state is examining the county's report, Hubbard said Wednesday.

"We did receive the report," Hubbard said. "The report is under review at this point. We're not sure exactly what environmental issues there are out there, but we will be responding back to the county in three weeks, we hope."

The county paid \$25,000 for the report - the same amount Fiscal Court paid to purchase the cemetery and adjacent land in 2001. Businesses have expressed interest in the site in the past, although they later opted to build elsewhere.

"We want to make sure ... whoever buys it is not going to have an environmental problem," Haire said. The environmental firm that completed the report "said the problem is not that severe. There are things that can be done to make sure this property is available for commercial use."

"We want to be able to sell the seven acres ... take that money and put it into a perpetual maintenance (account) for that African American cemetery," Haire said.

The county would like to be able to market the property in 2006, Haire said.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 6 November 2005, p2F:

[Legal notice – Invitation for bidders for the sale
of a section of the Greenwood Cemetery property]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 28 December 2005, p1A:



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. Story, Page 1B.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 28 December 2005, pp1B & 3B:

Cemetery project in the works

Volunteers needed to work on list of burials at Greenwood

By Renee 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

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.

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.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 5 January 2006, pp1A & 2A:

Site near cemetery could be sold today

Fiscal Court considering offer for 7 acres on East Parrish Avenue

By James Mayse, Messenger-Inquirer

A 7-acre site near the old Greenwood Cemetery could be sold today, as Daviess County officials consider a bid on the property from a Louisville firm with experience in environmental issues.

Daviess Fiscal Court will consider a bid from Revitalized Properties, LLC to purchase the East Parrish Avenue property. The site - once used as a dump for building supplies and debris - is considered a brownfield, which requires a state development plan that will determine how potential environmental problems are mitigated and monitored. Once a site development plan is in place, the land can be put to use.

Steve Johnson, assistant county administrator, said the county received two bids for the property: \$95,000 from Revitalized Properties and an offer of engineering services if county officials wanted to sell the property to a developer.

The county spent about \$87,000 for the land, environmental studies and on other costs associated with the site. The slight profit will be used to mow the grass at Greenwood Cemetery, Johnson said.

The county purchased the cemetery and the adjacent land in 2001 and has maintained it ever since.

"The county spends a couple thousand (dollars) a year to cut the grass. The court is committed to making sure the grass is cut in the future," Johnson said.

The county wanted a buyer that could handle the site's environmental issues. "

The biggest thing about this thing is it's a brownfield. It's not a property the county would feel comfortable selling to (just) anybody," Johnson said.

Brad Dillon, a partner in Revitalized Properties, said the firm's members have dealt with environmental issues many times.

"I'm a partner with a law firm and I've done environmental work for almost 30 years," Dillon said. "... Some people I know had done some environmental reports on (the Parrish Avenue site), and it looked to me like a classic brownfield."

Johnson said the site does contain an area with high levels of the chemical benzene.

"What we know they will do is work with the state and make sure all the environmental issues are addressed," he said.

The site is probably more conducive to commercial development rather than residential, because the state would have more requirements for turning the site into housing property, Dillon said.

"I wouldn't rule (residential) out, but it becomes a much more difficult issue selling that to the state," Dillon said.

Once the site development plan is approved, Revitalized Properties will be ready to sell the land to a developer, Dillon said, and it will be safe for use during and after development, Dillon said.

"There will be a health and safety plan for workers as the project goes forward," he said.



**Meeting with Emily Holloway and Wesley Acton,
Greenwood Cemetery Restoration 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 December 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), 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 (3rd section, in back). Took 2 ½ hours.



**e-mail : To Bill Johnson (wjohn10131@aol.com)
& Wesley Acton (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 (270-683-7391),
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.



**Meeting with Emily Holloway (270-683-7391),
Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee, 28 April 2006:**

I showed Mrs. Holloway copy of book, Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, Kentucky. 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 January 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, of McDowell Publications, 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 (270-275-4511),
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.



McDowell Publications, Old Hartford Road, Pleasant Ridge, KY, 1 May 2006:

I delivered copy of my manuscript, Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, Kentucky for publications. Requested 20 hardbound (bound in black with gold letters) and 40 softbound (in ivory covers). At no extra cost he said he could put a color photograph on the front and back covers of the softbound copies.



**e-mail : To Keith Lawrence (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, Kentucky, 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



Cover of book published by McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, c.2006:

Greenwood Cemetery

1821 Leitchfield Road
Owensboro, Kentucky



*By
Jerry Long*



June 17, 2006

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, you were invited to attend a Memorial Day Service at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro, Kentucky. This cemetery, established one hundred years ago by a small group of African American men, has provided a distinguish service to our community. On the invitation, we proudly announced the sale of a book containing a great amount of interesting information about the Cemetery's history, founders, reclamation, and a data base of 2043 confirmed on site burials.

This book is a treasure trove of facts which Mr. Jerry Long, a genealogist from The Kentucky Room of Daviess County Public Library, researched and compiled from a wide variety of sources. Mr. Long's annotations reflect and explain in simple terms the in-depth study and meticulous follow-up that is the hallmark of his work. In short as a true professional, Long made this most arduous task look simple. Nothing is further from the truth!

Greenwood Cemetery is an enigma which has been unfolding in its own time. So much has been lost, because of ?? Who knows? Each breakthrough or inch of progress has required countless additional steps because we do not have the questions nor the answers; little was documented unless required by law. Yet each time we've come to a stand still, help has come from an unexpected source. This time, thanks to Jerry, it is a newly published book.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY
1821 LEITCHFIELD ROAD, OWENSBORO, KY BY
JERRY LONG

To purchase a book, please contact us immediately! Only a few books of the first printing are left, then we will take orders.

CALL WESLEY ACTON 270-275-4511 or EMILY HOLLOWAY 270-683-7391

THIS BOOK AVAILABLE (5-19-06) SOFT BACK> \$27.00

(6-15-06) HARD BACK> \$37.00

PLEASE ADD \$3.00 MAILING FEE, IF NEEDED

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

THE GREENWOOD CEMETERY RESTORATION COMMITTEE
3514 CHRISTIE PLACE OWENSBORO, KY 42301



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.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 15 July 2006, p3B:

Purchase of land next to cemetery awaits state action

By James Mayse, Messenger-Inquirer

The Louisville firm hoping to purchase property adjacent to the old Greenwood Cemetery is awaiting the state's approval before proceeding.

Revitalized Properties LLC agreed to purchase the East Parrish Avenue land from Daviess Fiscal Court for \$95,000 in January. But the sale will not be complete until state environmental officials approve a site management plan for the property. The state will also have to agree to restrictions included in the deed before the sale can proceed.

The deed restrictions will prohibit certain uses of the property, Assistant County Administrator Steve Johnson said. The seven-acre site - once used as a dump for building supplies and debris - is considered a brownfield, which requires a state development plan that will determine how potential environmental problems are mitigated and monitored.

The property is adjacent Greenwood Cemetery, which contains the graves of many black city residents.

County officials have said selling the adjacent property will allow them to continue maintaining the cemetery property - which fell into neglect before being cleaned by a citizens group and later purchased by Fiscal Court. County officials said previously they hope to use proceeds from the land sale to pay for mowing at the cemetery.

No money will be paid to the county until the state approves the site plan, Johnson said.

"We said if (Revitalized Properties) works through the state, we'll wait for the state to finish their work before we execute that (sale)," Johnson said.

Roy Funkhouser, a partner with Revitalized Properties, said the firm deals with sites with environmental issues. The East Parrish Avenue site does not have severe environmental problems, Funkhouser said. Benzene has been found in some parts of the site.

The state reviewed the company's first site management plan and sent back questions. The company updated the plan and is waiting for the state to finish its review.

"The site is not a real huge priority because it's not viewed as a real risk," Funkhouser said.

Revitalized Properties plans to sell the property to another company once the site development plan is complete.

"There was nothing that came back as a big issue to anybody that required remediation," Funkhouser said. If the site contained a paved parking area, the pavement would serve as a cap on the site, he said. Ground water will be tested on a quarterly basis,

"If we have an end-user that's going to have the entire property covered (with pavement) we have very little to do," Funkhouser said. If the eventual buyer wants to leave some green space on the property, Revitalized Properties would have to add a layer of clean fill dirt and do some grading work.

"It doesn't have to be all a big parking lot," Funkhouser said.



**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, Kentucky. 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 270-684-0211 ext. 5, 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, Kentucky (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

[ed. note – Copies of Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, Kentucky were also donated to the Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY; Kentucky Historical Society Library, Frankfort, KY; Church of Latter Day Saints Library, Salt Lake City, UT; Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN; and Willard Library, Evansville, IN.]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 23 August 2006, pp1B & 3B:

Names & Notes: Cemetery studied

By Suzi Bartholomy

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.



Jerry Long

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.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 4 January 2007, p1C:

Honor planned for black soldiers
Committee wants monument at Greenwood Cemetery

By David Blackburn, Messenger-Inquirer

Retired Army Master Sgt. James Goodall readily admits he is not a very patient person.

When something needs to be done, he said, it should be done right away.

That includes putting a monument of some kind honoring veterans in the blacks-only Greenwood Cemetery, he said.

The Utica man challenged the crowd at a Memorial Day 2006 service at the cemetery to find a way to honor former soldiers at the Leitchfield Road site.

As in football, you don't advance the ball unless you pick it up, said Goodall, co-chairman of the Owensboro-Daviess County Veterans Affairs Committee.

"You've got to move forward sometime," said Goodall, who feels "someone in the black community needs to pick this up and run with it."

The first steps were taken about six weeks ago, said Anastine Coleman, who heard Goodall's challenge.

She and others on a monument committee began looking at prices for a granite marker.

The cost of putting the names of 68 soldiers -about a dozen of which served in the Civil War -will be about \$4,000, Coleman said. It will be about \$3,000 without names, she said.

"It depends on how much donations we get," Coleman said. The group is expected to meet next week to discuss options and costs.

"Something has to be done now" to have it ready by this Memorial Day, which is the target date, Coleman said.

Coleman and Wesley Acton, who led the cemetery restoration committee in the late 1990s, will ask organizations for help, said Richard Brown with the local NAACP chapter.

Brown is the veterans affairs chairman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter.

Brown said he will put together a recommendation for Monday's chapter meeting at Zion Baptist Church at 2311 W. Ninth St. It will likely urge a financial donation, he said.

"We're hoping it will be a success," Brown said.

"We commend (Goodall's) effort," said Mike Walker, chapter president. "It's refreshing a nonminority has an interest in seeing honors being bestowed upon minority soldiers.

"I wish more people in the community were as proactive as he is about minority issues."

Goodall wants all soldiers to be honored.

"We're a band of brothers," he said.

The first casualty of the Revolutionary War – Crispus Attucks – was black, and George Washington led an integrated Continental Army, he said.

"I don't see any separation," Goodall said.

In a Dec. 26 letter to Walker, Brown and other black community leaders urging action, Goodall quoted Abraham Lincoln: "Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure."

The veterans affairs committee quickly raised money to add monuments honoring Desert Storm and Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom veterans at the Sportscenter last year, he said.

"I thought there's no reason we can't put a monument down there at Greenwood," Goodall said.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 11 January 2007, p3B:

Donations being taken for Greenwood Cemetery monument

Donations are being accepted for a veterans monument honoring 68 soldiers buried in the Greenwood Cemetery on Leitchfield Road.

Organizers from various groups are considering a granite monument for the all-black cemetery, which was restored in the late 1990s. Some of the soldiers fought in the Civil War.

The preliminary target date for having the monument in place is Memorial Day.

Checks should be made to Greenwood Cemetery Restoration. Donations should be sent to Emily H. Holloway, a restoration committee member, at 3514 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY 42301.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 1 March 2007, p1B:

County sells Parrish property

7 acres next to Greenwood Cemetery bring \$95,000

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

In May 2001, Daviess Fiscal Court bought historic Greenwood Cemetery at auction for \$25,000, to ensure its preservation.

The idea was to sell seven unused acres on the Parrish Avenue side of the cemetery for enough money to pay for its perpetual upkeep.

Wednesday, after nearly six years of snags and delay, the county finally sold the seven acres to Louisville-based Revitalized Properties LLC for \$95,000.

The agreement for the sale was signed in January 2006. But first the company, which specializes in working out environmental problems, had to win state approval for its plan to handle any problems caused during the years the land was used as an illegal dump for building supplies and debris.

Roy Funkhouser, a partner with Revitalized Properties, said the plan the state agreed to calls for a paved parking lot and whatever building is finally erected there to serve as a cap over the buried debris.

Revitalized Properties will begin marketing the property to developers immediately, Funkhouser said.

"It's good for just about anything," he said. "It could be offices, a restaurant, a pharmacy, anything."

The Parrish land is Revitalized Properties' first Owensboro project, Funkhouser said. But the company has handled similar environmentally challenged properties in Louisville, Lexington and northern Kentucky, he said.

There had been concern by some that unmarked graves might be on the seven acres.

But Funkhouser said: "We dug test trenches and did some borings, but we didn't find any graves. All we found were things like glass and clay pottery fragments."

Greenwood was the city's principal black cemetery from 1906 to 1974.



**Letter : To Emily Holloway, 3514 Christie Place,
Owensboro, KY 43101, 7 March 2007:**

Sent 8 pages of veterans buried at Greenwood Cemetery. Several months ago plans were announced for erecting a veteran's monument in the cemetery. I did the additional research to correct many errors that appeared in a Confederates group listing made several years ago. My listing was compiled from military monuments in the cemetery, WPA's listing of Veteran's burials, Owensboro obituaries, book "History of Daviess County, KY in the World War, 1917-1919", Military records collection on Ancestry.com. I was able to document 85 vets.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 27 May 2007, p1C:

Cemetery services honor sacrifices
Soldiers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters recognized

By David Blackburn, Messenger-Inquirer

One pre-Memorial Day service Saturday honored 84 black soldiers from conflicts dating back to the Civil War by unveiling a marker bearing their names.

Another service included recognition of the sacrifices firefighters and law enforcement members are willing to make every day.

The events at Greenwood Cemetery and Owensboro Memorial Gardens began a weekend of recognizing the service of local residents.

"We celebrate the courage and valor of those who said `yes' " and served, Daviess County Judge-Executive Reid Haire told a crowd of about 70 people at Greenwood on Saturday morning.

In 2001, the county bought the blacks-only Leitchfield Road cemetery that once had trash dumped near its approximately 2,000 graves.

Haire spoke soon after the unveiling of the granite marker etched with the names of black soldiers buried there, including 21 in unmarked graves.

The marker is the culmination of a yearlong effort by the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter.

At the 2006 event, retired Army Master Sgt. James Goodall encouraged NAACP members to memorialize soldiers buried in the cemetery.



During the annual Memorial Day service at Greenwood Cemetery, Diane Eisenmenger takes a picture of the newly unveiled Veterans Memorial as Tammy Lowery, second from left, and Billie West, center, show appreciation by clapping during the service Saturday. One side of the memorial is engraved with the names of veterans who are buried in the cemetery. The other side says, "Veterans Memorial, Dedicated to all Veterans who have Proudly Served Our Country Through All Wars."

"He said this is something that should happen," said Richard Brown, chapter chairman of the veterans committee. He unveiled the marker with Merle Ware, who helped raise money for it.

The group welcomed the challenge, and "a lot of people gave from their hearts," Brown said. The monument cost about \$6,000, he said.

"There was some concern we wouldn't be able to get it all together for this," said Wesley Acton, who led the cemetery's restoration in the 1990s.

"But it all came together," Acton said.

Goodall challenged attendees to get young people involved in the cemetery and to teach them their history, especially veterans' histories.

"It's our responsibility to carry on," said Goodall, co-chairman of the Owensboro-Daviess County Veterans Affairs Committee.

As with the Greenwood service, small U.S. flags were planted at the graves of soldiers at Owensboro Memorial Gardens on Kentucky 144.

Members of the military and local fire and law enforcement communities placed wreaths beneath flags of their respective branch or department in the afternoon service.

The event, and Memorial Day itself, is meant to "honor the values of those soldiers who died," said speaker Col. John Kazlauskas, chief of the Owensboro Police Department.

The values include courage, honor, respect, loyalty, integrity, duty and unselfish service, Kazlauskas told the crowd of about 130 people.

Americans who think of Memorial Day as a long weekend or a chance for a sale need to reconnect with its true meaning, he said. Few know a veteran these days, he said.

Kazlauskas told of returning to the United States in 1970 from a stint as an Army helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War.

At an airport restroom, he saw another soldier stuffing his jungle fatigues in a trash can, saying he didn't want anyone to know he was once in the Army, Kazlauskas said.

"I wonder if anybody every told (him) how much we appreciate him," Kazlauskas said, his voice breaking.

Attending the service is a way to reconnect with Memorial Day's history and the values of soldiers who died to ensure free speech, free press and other rights, he said.

"You are not forgetting the sacrifices of our soldiers," Kazlauskas said.

The government also has a duty to remember the soldiers, U.S. Rep. Ron Lewis said.

It did so earlier this week when the U.S. Department for Veterans Affairs approved an outpatient VA clinic for Owensboro, Lewis said.

He thanked the work of the local city and county officials and veterans advocates, as well as Robert Morrel, director at the VA Medical Center in Marion, Ill., who attended the service.

"That first dollar that goes out of Washington (D.C.) should go out for those who stood for us," Lewis said.

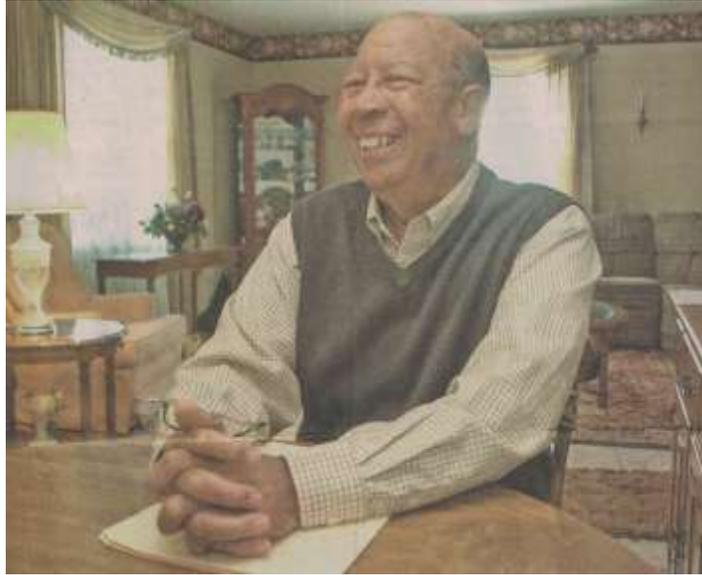


Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY, 28 May 2007:

I stopped at the cemetery with my mother to see the new veteran's monument that was dedicated on May 26th. The list of veterans was exactly (letter for letter & order) as I had given the cemetery committee on 7 March 2007. The totals given in the Messenger-Inquirer article on the 27th about the dedication (84 veterans including 21 in unmarked graves) were the totals I had been able to document.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 10 April 2009, p1B:



Wesley Acton, the first black teacher in an integrated school in Daviess County, smiles as he talks about about his teachign career Wednesday morning at his home in Pleasant Ridge. "I love being around people, and still want to continue to the community, said Acton, who retired from full-time teaching in 1993, but still works regularly as a substitute teacher. Ation was also a driving force behind the restoration of Greenwood cemetery. [On same page see article "Acton remains active in community - Area native retired in 1993 after 48 years as a teacher]



12 August 2009

Emily Holloway
3514 Christie Place
Owensboro, KY 42301

Dear Ms. Holloway:

I have enclosed an updated list of the additions since the publication of the Greenwood Cemetery book. It contains 187 additions, including 8 from the 1958 Kentucky Death Certificates. The other additions were made from the McFarland Funeral Home records, other years of the 1950's death certificates and various obituaries that we have run across in the Owensboro newspapers.

Last year I met and spoke to James & Viola Young. Mr. Young is connected with the Young Funeral Home. They said they could not allow someone else to come in and go through the Funeral Home's records but Mrs. Young offered to make a list of the Greenwood burials. A couple of months later I called Mrs. Young and asked her if she

had been able to look for any Greenwood burials. She said she had not yet found the time but still intended to do so. It is now almost a year since our initial meeting. I was wondering if you would consider possibly following up with a call to Mrs. Young? If you could explain how important it is to preserve and help to make the record of the Greenwood Cemetery more complete possibly Mrs. Young would be encouraged to help. If something happens to the Funeral Home's records there additions would be lost. Their additions would make the Greenwood record more complete and will add to a tremendous source for generations to come. After my time here at the Library I cannot promise that there will be someone who can in the future add to the Greenwood database. Mrs. Young's phone number is 684-8376.

Best wishes,
Jerry Long
Kentucky Room
Daviess County Public Library
2020 Frederica St.
Owensboro, KY 42301



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 7 October 2009, p4B:

Help sought for cleanup of Greenwood Cemetery

Volunteers are needed next week to help remove fallen limbs from Greenwood Cemetery.

A cleanup day will be at the Daviess County cemetery on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

The cemetery is a resting place for perhaps 2,000 black Daviess County residents, with graves dating to 1906. The Greenwood Restoration Committee undertook a major restoration project in the mid-1990s, cleaning the vandalized, neglected cemetery and restoring it to its previous beauty.

The cleanup day will be to remove limbs that fell during the January ice storm. Workers will also be needed to remove dangling limbs from trees.

The work will begin at 7 a.m. People interested in volunteering should call Wesley Acton at 275-4511. The cemetery is on Leitchfield Road just past 18th Street.

On Oct. 17, members of Settle Memorial United Methodist Church will plant flowers in the cemetery. Other groups are invited to participate. For more information, call 684-4226.



15 October 2009

Emily Holloway
3514 Christie Place
Owensboro, KY 42301

Dear Ms. Holloway:

I have enclosed an updated list of the additions since the publication of the Greenwood Cemetery book. It contains 242 additions. From the Young Funeral Home records I was able to add 55 more. The total of number of documented burials at Greenwood is now 2288.

I thought I would contact the McFarland Funeral Home and ask how far their records go back. When Mr. Acton asked them to review their records he asked specifically for them to check their burial records for the years of 1957-1976. He had asked me what years would help the most and I hi-lighted these because we had not reviewed the Daviess County death certificates for those years. I am now thinking if McFarland Funeral Home has any other records that pre-date 1957 they might also give us a few additions.

I have added up all of the source material that I have printed out for a future addendum volume. These are the documents that prove that each of the 242 additions were buried at Greenwood Cemetery. There are 260 pages. At ten cents per page that would be a total of \$26.00.

Best wishes,
Jerry Long
Kentucky Room
Daviess County Public Library
2020 Frederica St.
Owensboro, KY 42301



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 3 June 2011, p6B:

Digest – Daviess Fiscal Court

At its meeting Thursday at the Daviess County Courthouse, Daviess Fiscal Court took the following action:

.... Approved up to \$600 to add five names to the Greenwood Cemetery Military Veterans Memorial Marker.



**Letter : To Emily Holloway, 3514 Christie Place,
Owensboro, KY 42301, 4 June 2011:**

Mailed list of 14 additional Greenwood Cemetery veterans, whose names were not included on the veteran's memorial erected in the cemetery in 2007. I provided them with a list of 85 veterans that were initially inscribed on the monument. The committee is not getting ready to have the additional names added. One of the cemetery's

committee members mistakenly submitted an earlier listing of 5 additions I had submitted in 2008. The new list has these 5 plus 9 other new names.



Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY, 10 June 2011:

Stopped at the cemetery to check to see how much space for names was remaining on the veteran's monument. I believe only about five more could be added. There is definitely not room to accommodate my list of fourteen additions. Later in the day I called Emily Holloway and told her what I had found.



**Updates to Greenwood Cemetery database
sent by Jerry Long to Emily Holloway,
3514 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY 42301
(each was accompanied by list of new additions)**

- 3 October 2011 – The 1960 Kentucky death certificates recently arrived at the Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library. I have gone through all of the certificates for Daviess County and several of the surrounding counties. In checking for burials at Greenwood Cemetery I was very surprised to find seven names that we did not previously know of. There were thirty-four burials in all that were found to be buried there in 1960. The newest additions bring the grand total of known burials at Greenwood to 2,303. There are 257 additions since the publication of the Greenwood book. I also recently discovered another vet that was not previously submitted. The list of veterans buried at Greenwood is now at 100 – 5 in Civil War, 1 Spanish American War, 67 World War I, 26 World War II and 1 Korean War. Fifteen of these were not included on the Veterans Monument when it was originally erected.
- 9 October 2012 – The library recently received the 1961 Kentucky death certificates. I went through and copied 16 that were buried at Greenwood Cemetery. Seven of these we did not previously have listed. None were veterans.
- 25 August 2013 – This week we received the 1962 Kentucky death certificates. I went through those for Daviess County and copied 13 that were buried at Greenwood Cemetery. Five of these we did not previously have listed. None were veterans. We now have in our list 2,317 burials at Greenwood; 272 of these are additions since the 2006 book.
- 23 January 2015 – This past week we received the 1963 Kentucky death certificates. I have gone through and checked all the certificates for Daviess County and the adjoining counties of Hancock and Ohio. I found 14 that were buried at Greenwood Cemetery. We already had 11 of these listed. The other three are new additions. I also recently discovered two new additions from newspaper listings.

- 1 April 1917 – I have recently gone through the 1964 Kentucky death certificates that have been added to the collection at the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Public Library. To my surprise everyone recorded as being buried at Greenwood Cemetery we already had listed. However, since my last report to you just before my retirement in 2015 I have discovered 19 additional burials at Greenwood. These are from new databases that have been made available on the Internet – including Applications for Veterans Headstones and death certificates for the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Texas. These additions include three veterans, whose names are not on the veterans’ monument in the cemetery. The current tally of burials at Greenwood is 2,339. This total includes 104 veterans and 293 additions since the publication of the book in 2006.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 27 May 2012, p1A:



Air Force veteran Terry Stinson, the keynote speaker at the 16th annual Memorial Day weekend service in Greenwood Cemetery on Saturday, quoted President Abraham Lincoln, who said, "Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure."

[ed. note – Names of U.S. veterans buried in Greenwood Cemetery are listed on the other side of the two Veterans Memorials in the picture. The larger monument was erected in 2007. After more additional veterans were discovered the smaller monument was erected in 2012. The names of 13 other veterans have since been discovered; their names do not appear on either monument.]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 16 August 2014, p1B:

Way cleared for development
By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

In early 2007, Louisville-based Revitalized Properties LLC bought seven acres at 2000 E. Parrish Ave. from Daviess Fiscal Court for \$95,000.

The property, between Greenwood Cemetery and East Parrish Avenue, had been used as an illegal dump for building supplies and debris for several years.

And although the waste wasn't deemed hazardous, Revitalized, which specializes in working out environmental problems, had to win state approval for its plans to develop the property.

Finally, at its meeting on Aug. 7, Daviess Fiscal Court agreed to remove the environmental restrictions it had placed on the property seven years ago that kept it from being developed for residential use.

In a letter to Fiscal Court, Bradley E. Dillon, Revitalized's attorney, said the Kentucky Division of Waste Management, recently agreed that the "prohibitions on residential use" were no longer needed.

He said the company believes that Fiscal Court's removal of the restrictions will "have a very positive effect on the ability to sell this property."

Bill Barron, the Realtor who has been working with Revitalized to sell the property, said, "The more options you have, the sooner something will happen. They had to do a lot of work on the property. I think it's got a great future. But there's nothing to announce at this time."

Dillon said the company has had discussions with the city about using part of the property for a connector street between 18th Street and East Parrish.

In May 2001, Fiscal Court bought historic Greenwood Cemetery at auction for \$25,000, to ensure its preservation.

The idea was to sell the seven unused acres on the Parrish Avenue side of the cemetery for enough money to pay for its perpetual upkeep.

Selling it to Revitalized took nearly six years.

The company's original plans for the property called for a paved parking lot and a building to serve as a cap over the buried debris.

Roy Funkhouser, a partner with Revitalized, said in 2007 that the property was "good for just about anything. It could be offices, a restaurant, a pharmacy, anything."

That's still a possibility, Barron said.

When the county bought the property, there was some concern that unmarked graves might be on part of it.

But Funkhouser said, "We dug test trenches and did some borings, but we didn't find any graves. All we found were things like glass and clay pottery fragments."

Greenwood was the city's principal black cemetery from 1906 to 1974.



Greenwood Cemetery, 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, KY, 9 April 2017:

I stopped at cemetery to check names on veteran's monument. The original monument had the names of 85 veterans (64 marked & 21 unmarked) that I had provided the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee in March 2007. The 2nd list of 15 additional names I provided in June 2011 was placed on a separate smaller monument erected next to the original monument. Currently there are 100 veterans etched on the two monuments. I have discovered four additional names not on the monuments – William Henry Hoskins, Paul Jefferson, Bush M. Jefferson & William Earl Owen.



**Updates to Greenwood Cemetery database
sent by Jerry Long Wesley Acton, Pleasant Ridge, KY
(accompanied by list of new additions)**

- 15 April 2018 – I informed him about my discovering 36 additional burials at Greenwood Cemetery. Recently the Internet site Newspapers.com has added the Owensboro newspapers down to 2009. Over the last couple of weeks I have searched the papers for any Greenwood burial not yet documented. Among the recent discoveries are 4 veterans, including one Civil War soldier. Mr. Acton said that Emily Holloway left Owensboro about a month ago to go live with her son.
- 23 November 2020 – When the Greenwood Cemetery book was published there were 2,046 documented burials there. I have since continued to do additional research and have documented another 337 burials. That brings the current total of documented burials to 2,383. There are 112 documented veterans at the cemetery – 7 Civil War (6 USA & 1 CSA); 2 Spanish American War; 75 World War 1; 27 World War 2; and 1 Korean War. Currently the last known burial at Greenwood was in February 1976. In the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Library there are 12 volumes that give each source that documents each known burial at Greenwood Cemetery. I have enough for a 13th volume that will eventually be bound and added to the collection in the Kentucky Room.
- 14 May 2021 – I have attached a Word file with 9 additions to Greenwood Cemetery that were discovered in the last year, 2020.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 24 February 2021, p2C:

The obituary of Linford Leroy Tapp recorded that he died on 18 February 2021 in Cleveland, Ohio. His funeral was at the McFarland Funeral in Owensboro and he was interred at Greenwood Cemetery on 26 February 2021. He was the first burial at

Owensboro's Greenwood Cemetery in over forty years. He was an educator for over 30 years and was a veteran. The son of James Lildren Tapp (1905-1972) & Mary Bell Whitsell (1910-1959), he was born on 10 February 1934 in Owensboro, KY. His parents are buried in Owensboro's Elmwood Cemetery.



Linford Leroy Tapp



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 26 August 2021, p2C:



Emily Holloway

CINCINNATI — Emily H. Holloway of Cincinnati, formerly of Owensboro, passed away Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, in Cincinnati. The Bloomington, Indiana, native was born to the late Milton T. Hall Sr. and Ethel C. Hall. Emily moved to Owensboro at an early age, where she graduated from high school. She attended Talladega College in Alabama and received her B.A. degree in education. It was during World War II, as she worked in Cincinnati for the government, that she met her future husband, Pete Holloway, at a dance and soon married. Later, she returned to school at the University of Cincinnati and received her M.A. degree in education. She became a teacher and supervisor of students with learning disabilities. She was an avid educator, who retired from the Cincinnati Public School System after 31 years.

Emily returned to Owensboro around 1994 and became involved in the Owensboro-Daviess County Historical Society working on getting recognition for her great-grandfather, Edward Claybrook, who worked to receive equal funding for Black

schools in the area. He is now registered with the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. After becoming acquainted with Wesley Acton, another former educator, they worked tirelessly as co-chairs on the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee beginning in 1996 toward one goal: to reclaim and restore to dignity and respect the local historic cemetery. With the help of over 200 volunteers from the local community, that goal was accomplished. She remained in Owensboro until 2018 when she returned to Cincinnati to reside in assisted living and be close to her son.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Holloway also was preceded in death by her husband, Norman "Pete" Holloway, in 1979; sister Maxine Kirkwood; and brother Milton T. Hall Jr., one of the first Tuskegee Airmen.

Those left to cherish her memory include her loving son, Peter B. Holloway (Jackie Penrod) of Cincinnati; her grandchildren, Milton Holloway, Emily Ann Holloway and Arya M. Russell; lifelong friend, neighbor and distant relative, Pam Smith-Wright; and a host of other relatives and friends.

A private graveside service and burial will be held later in her beloved Greenwood Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to Talladega College, 627 W. Battle St., Talladega, AL 35160.



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, KY, 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.

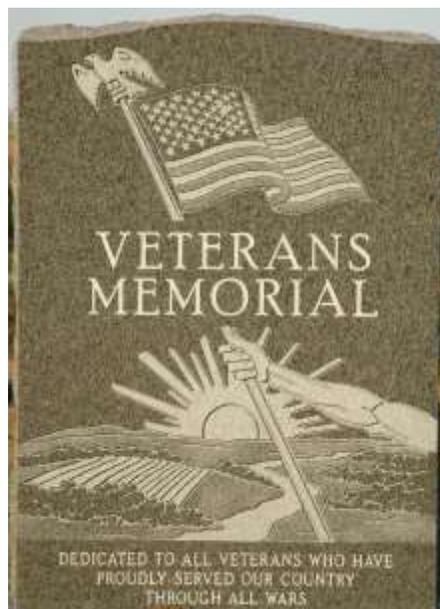
In 1996, Wesley Acton and Emily Holloway formed the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee. Together, they promoted the historical importance of the cemetery and organized over 200 volunteers to engage in a massive two-year restoration project. Around the same time, a local genealogist, Jerry Long, 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







Thanks!

Visit



RECLAIMED!!

**A Gift to the Community by: The
Greenwood Cemetery Restoration
Committee and Friends.**

**Location: 1821 Leitchfield Road
Owensboro, KY 42303**

**(Just East of 18th Street
On Leitchfield Road.)**