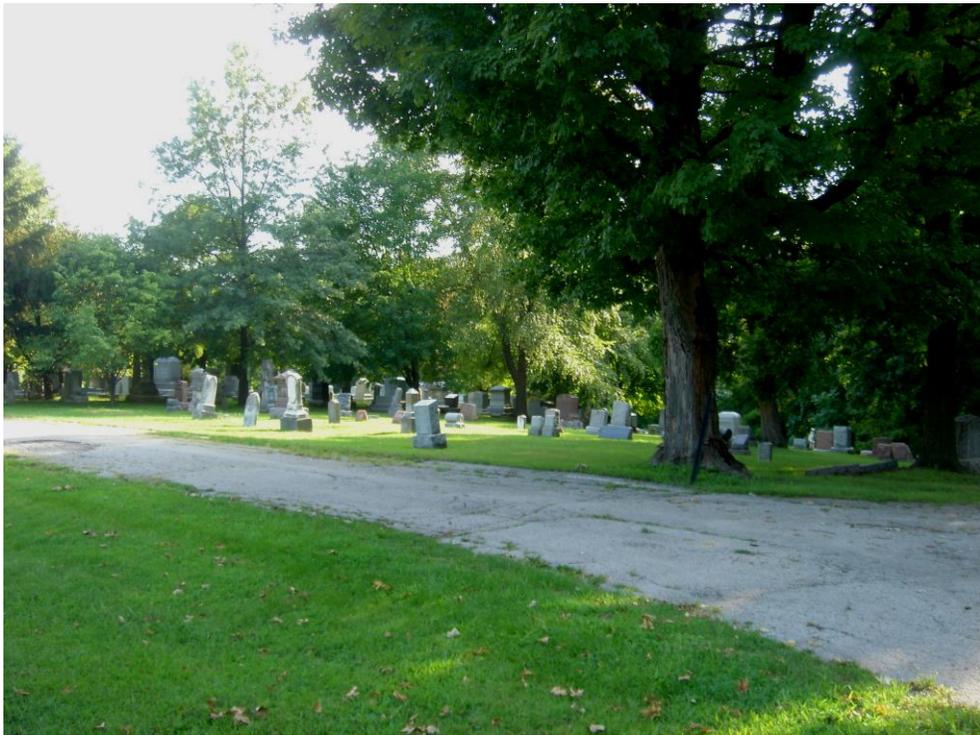


THE COLORED SECTION OAK RIDGE CEMETERY

SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS



Spring Creek Series

Richard E. Hart
Springfield, Illinois

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Front Cover Photograph: Photograph of Block 5, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois. This block contains the graves of many of Springfield's early African American citizens and is commonly known as the "Colored Section."

Back Cover Photograph: Photograph of the grave of Jane Pellum who was born in Virginia in 1788. She died on November 9, 1867, and is probably the first to be buried in the "Colored Section" of Oak Ridge Cemetery.

The Colored Section, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois,
Spring Creek Series.

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The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

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The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Introduction

OAK RIDGE CEMETERY THE COLORED SECTION

There is a small section in the northwest part of Oak Ridge Cemetery that is the final resting place of many of Springfield's earliest African Americans citizens and their descendants. In many respects this section along a quiet ridge overlooking Spring Creek is a cemetery within a cemetery and it has many of the characteristics of a small, Sangamon County country cemetery. It has long been known as the "Colored Section."

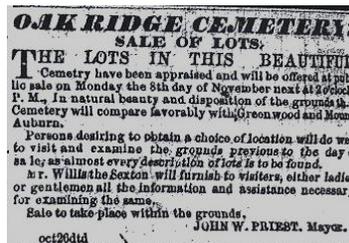
The "Colored Section" is only a short walk from Block 10 or what I call Aristocracy Hill, where many prominent white families familiar to us as friends, family and associates of Abraham Lincoln are buried. The stories of those families, the Todds, the Edwards, Stuarts, the Pasfields, the Bunns and the Irwins, to name a few, have been told often and are familiar to us.

The stories of those buried in the Colored Section have not received the same attention and as I compiled this history I have been struck by the importance of their stories in understanding the Springfield that Lincoln knew. The "Colored Section" is truly one of the most historic sections of Oak Ridge Cemetery and many of those buried here played significant roles in the history of Springfield. Within its small boundaries are buried a few who were former slaves, some who were neighbors of Abraham Lincoln, some who were conductors on the Underground Railroad, one who made Lincoln's boots, another who transported Lincoln to the Great Western Station when he left Springfield for Washington, one who led Lincoln's horse in Lincoln's Springfield funeral, and one who was murdered by a mob in the 1908 Springfield Race Riot.

There are others whose graves are unmarked, yet we know from Oak Ridge Cemetery records that they are buried here. Where I have been able to find information on a person, I have included it. There are some for whom my search was in vain. I could find nothing about them. So here is the story of the "Colored Section of Oak Ridge Cemetery as best I have been able to piece it together.

In 1855, at the urging of city alderman Charles Lanphier the Springfield City Council established a new cemetery known as Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹ The City initially purchased a 17 acre tract of land two miles north of the State Capitol from Archer G. Herndon, the father of Lincoln's law partner, William Herndon.² The following year, the City acquired additional land, enlarging the cemetery to 28 ½ acres. The cemetery is named for a forest of oak trees of various species growing along the ridge of high ground overlooking Spring Creek.

On May 14, 1856, the City Council passed an ordinance forbidding burials within the Springfield city limits. The *Journal* of November 12, 1858, contained an advertisement for the sale of lots in Oak Ridge Cemetery.³



¹ *A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery*, Floyd S. Barringer, M.D., The Sangamon County Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois, February 1967, p. 4. (Hereinafter cited as "Barringer.")

² *State Register*, November 8, 1931.

³ *Journal*, November 12, 1858, p. 2, cl. 6.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

On May 24, 1860, Oak Ridge Cemetery was dedicated.⁴ It is reported that Mary and Abraham Lincoln attended the dedication.⁵

In 1879, the Springfield City Council passed an ordinance that read:

The Board of Managers [of Oak Ridge] shall set apart a portion of the Cemetery grounds for the burial of the poor, another for the burial of strangers, or persons not belonging to the city, another portion for the burial of inhabitants of the city not having private lots, and another portion for the burial of colored persons.

The ordinance remained on the books until the early 1950s, although the exact year it was abolished is not known. It was apparently eliminated when the Springfield City Code was routinely rewritten.

Additional property has been acquired over the years and by the mid-1940s, there were a total of 200 acres, containing over twelve miles of roadways and drives, floral display areas and four maintenance buildings.⁶ Today Oak Ridge Cemetery consists of over 365 acres.⁷

The earliest African American grave predates the 1879 Springfield City ordinance mandating “another portion for the burial of colored persons.” Jane Pellum died on November 9, 1867, and was perhaps the first African American buried in the “Colored Section” of Oak Ridge Cemetery. (1.4) There is a photograph of her grave marker on the back cover.

Many of those buried in the “Colored Section” are descendants of Phoebe Florville, the wife of William Florville, Lincoln’s friend and barber. Phoebe died on October 13, 1897, and was buried in Row 3 of the “Colored Section.” (3.11) William, however, was buried in the Catholic Calvary Cemetery that adjoins Oak Ridge Cemetery to the north. Those who are descendants of Phoebe and William Florville are so identified by a small photograph of William Florville above their name in the heading preceding the photograph of their grave.



There are also many descendants of the Rev. Henry Brown, who died on September 3, 1906 and is buried in Row 11. (11.7) Those who are descendants of Henry Brown are so identified by a small photograph of Henry Brown above their name in the heading preceding the photograph of their grave.



⁴ *State Register*, November 8, 1931.

⁵ *Barringer*, p. 4. *State Register*, March 12, 1958.

⁶ *Journal*, November 13, 1949, p. 15. *Journal*, May 30, 1945. *Oak Ridge Cemetery, A Historic Place*, Laura Carnes, AP History 6th, 10.19.01 *Journal Register*, October 5, 2005, p.30, cl. 1.

⁷ *Barringer*, p. 4.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Veterans

The veterans who are buried in the Colored Section of Oak Ridge Cemetery are listed below. They are identified by an American flag above their name in the heading preceding the photograph of their grave.



James W. Clark 3.8

Olie King 9.2

Civil War

Clark Duncan 3.14

Moses Smith 5.5

Spanish American War

Edward R. Wormley 8.1

Robert Blakeman 11.10

World War I

Junior Warsaw Dent 3.3

William John Florville 3.12

This book is a visual record of the 117 grave markers in the Colored Section at Oak Ridge Cemetery as of March 1, 2008. Where I have found information about a person or family buried here in one of the 117 marked graves, I have included that information. In many cases I was unable to find little or no information on a person. There are at least 198 unmarked graves and the stories of those persons go untold. My research is merely the tip of the ice berg and I hope that this book will stimulate interest in this important section of Oak Ridge Cemetery. Perhaps others will do further research and add to the stories. Hopefully the Colored Section of Oak Ridge Cemetery will be recognized as the important historic place that it is.

I hope you enjoy this excursion into a little known but important aspect of Springfield's history.

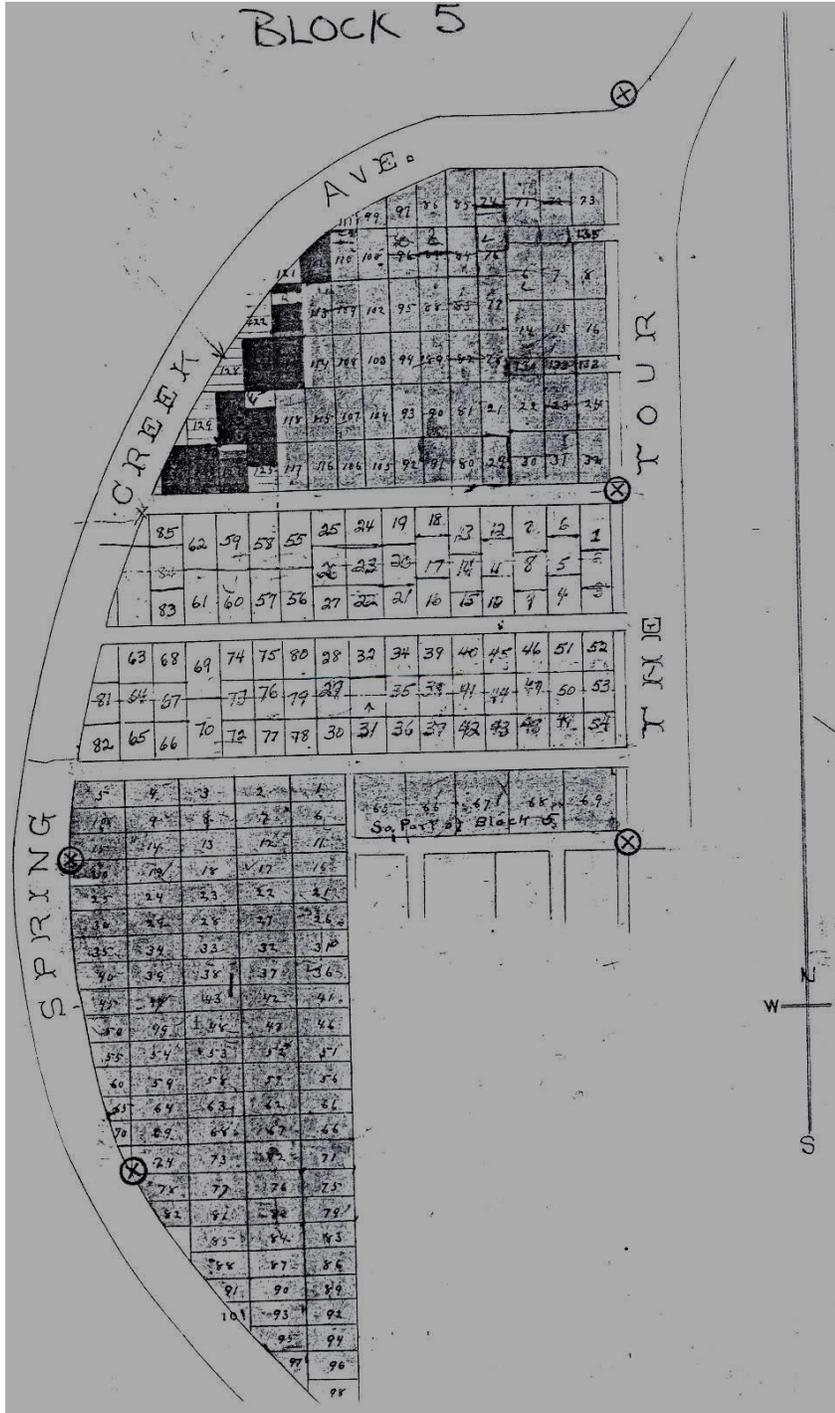
Richard E. Hart
March 4, 2008
Springfield, Illinois

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



Summer views of the Colored Section, Oak Ridge Cemetery

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



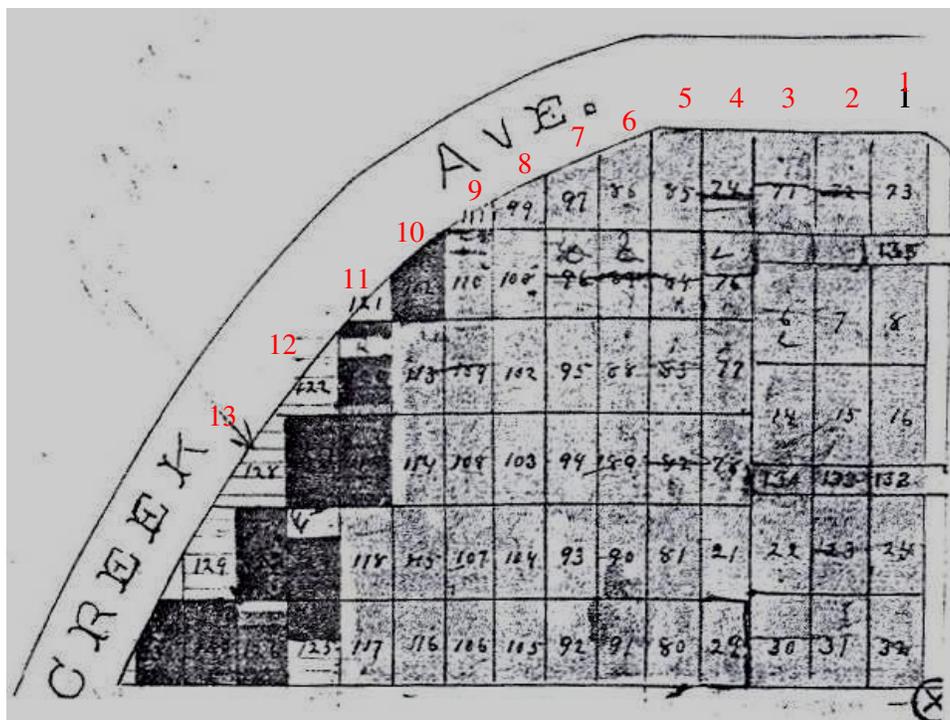
Plat of Block 5 of Oak Ridge Cemetery

The “Colored Section” of Oak Ridge Cemetery is located within a plated area designated as “Block 5.” The plat for Block 5 is pictured above and that part of the Block 5 plat termed the “Colored Section” is pictured on the following page. North is to the top of both of these plats. The road on the east side of Block 5 is named “The Tour.” The road on the west side is named “Spring Creek Ave.”

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

I have given row numbers from 1 to 13 to the Colored Section plat and they are shown in red below. The rows are numbered from the east or front side of Block 5 to the west or back side of Block 5. Sometimes it is difficult to discern a true "row," but I believe that with a little meandering, there are "rows."

The lots are numbered, but not in any particular order so that the lot numbers in a particular row are not consecutive. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial records are matched against the lot numbers on the plat, one can roughly determine where each person is buried. I have numbered the grave markers in each row from the north end of each row to the south end of that row.



Plat of the Colored Section of Block 5 of Oak Ridge Cemetery

Burials Listed By Lot Numbers

Names from the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register are shown below opposite the lot number where each is shown to be buried. The records show that 357 named persons are buried in the Colored Section of Block 5, but there are only 117 grave markers identifying 159 persons. There are at least 198 persons buried in unmarked graves. There are also a number of persons identified on grave markers who are not in the Oak Ridge register as official burials.

- Lot 6 N ½** Paulina Redlich, Johanan Dent, George Kyles, Junior Warsaw Dent, Bretie Smith, William Everet Smith
- Lot 6 S ½** Sydney Donagon, Henry B. Coker, Susan Coker (Donegan?) and George Donagan
- Lot 7** Harriett Ann Clark, Alexander Clark, John Warren, Major Clark, Major Clark and Sarah Harvey
- Lot 8** Smith Fry, Mary Fry, Richard Fry, Martha Fry, Henry Fry, Robbie C. Jarbo, Louisa Fry, Nelson Child of William, Irene Nelson, William Fry, Nancy Fry and Fanny Dyer
- Lot 14** Lue Ella Clark, Willie Parks, Abraham Lewis, Alice Parks, Frank Peterson, Sarah Clark, Martha Parks, Albert Williams, Sampson David, Saide P. Brooks, Louisa David
- Lot 15** Edmund Fry, William A. Fry, Lucinda Johnson, Amanda Richardson, Flora Johnson, Nancy Fry
- Lot 16** Jane Pelham, Sarah Wright, Jamison Jenkins, James Blanks, Jane Watkins Hancock, Lizzie Florville [Elizabeth, daughter of William L. and Nancy Jenkins Florville], Jacqueline P. Wheatley

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

- Lot 21** H. Biddeman, Jordan Richardson, DeLeon Florville, S. (Mrs. ?) Sinette Florville Richardson, George Richardson, James Richardson, Edward Curtis, Mable Curtis, Ella Boles Richardson, William Richardson, Thomas Richardson
- Lot 22 N ½** J. Woodford, Ernest Woodford, Belfield Woodford, James Edwards, Eureka Croker
- Lot 22 S ½** Willis F. Wright, Mamie A. Wright
- Lot 23 N ½** Mrs. Sam Willis (Aquila Florville), Fannie E. Day Willis, Emmett Eli Perkins, Jr., Samuel Willis, June Willis and Samuel L. Willis
- Lot 23 S ½** Teresa Davis, Susan C. Davis, Franklin Davis, Retta Gibson and Arminta Thompson
- Lot 24 N ½** Elizabeth Jessey
- Lot 24 S ½** Georgia C. Cooper, Catharine Rollins, Dubfin Jesse, Robert Cooper, Martha A. Cooper and Adelia Woods
- Lot 29** Ruhara Wright, Addie T. Jones, Hoffman Infant of S., Albert DeCosta, Clifford Wright, Mrs. F. V. Rogers, Martha Wright, Wright Child of Ed, Hoffman Infant of Mrs., Wright child of Martin, Adalaide C. Bouldin, and Marvelle Jones (more)
- Lot 30 N ½** Phoebe Florville Coleman, Joseph Florville, William L. Florville, James Clark, William John [LaRue] Florville and Eva Florville
- Lot 30 S ½** Infant of Bitterman, Salomon Frankel, Louis Hamburger, Infant of H. & L Bittermann, Alcina Duncan, Clark Duncan, Julia C. Duncan and Addie L. Duncan
- Lot 31** Sarah Anderson, Harriett A. Anderson, Elmira Parker, Charley R. Parker, Sarah Wright, Thomas Wright, Frieda A. Parker, Clarence Parker, George W. Wright, Susan V. Wright, Thomas McCloud, Mary Wilson
- Lot 32 N ½** Thomas Wright
- Lot 32 S ½** Leonah Knox, Gracie N. Donegan, Thomas Davis
- Lot 33**
- Lot 60**
- Lot 70**
- Lot 71 N ½** Louella Taylor, John W. Slaughter, Merrit Woody, and Mayme Slaughter
- Lot 71 S ½** Elmer Taborn, Hardy R. Taborn, Henry F. Taborn, John Andrew Taborn, Mary Jane Taborn
- Lot 72 N ½** Sam Smith, Elizabeth N. Shaffer, Martin Shaffer, and Sylvester Schafer
- Lot 72 S ½** Lottie Watts, Cornelius Gibson, Charles Wilson and John Gibson
- Lot 73** Dellecie Freeman, Infant of W. & E. Freeman, Jessee Freeman, Henry Bayler, Infant of Wm. & M. Freeman, Child of Mr. & Mrs. Dickerson, William Freeman, Saramuel Ferguson, Lottie Boyd, Lucinda Baylor
- Lot 74 N ½** Thomas Jackson, John Edward Jackson and Matilda Jackson
- Lot 74 S ½** Margaret Williams
- Lot 75**
- Lot 76 N ½** Eda Faro Williams
- Lot 76 S ½** Frederick R. York, A. V. York, Minnie York Rose
- Lot 77 N ½** Ida Moore, A. Robinson Infant, Philip W. Moore, Lillian C. McGee Moore
- Lot 77 S ½** Hugh Eldridge, Nancy Eldridge
- Lot 78 S ½** Annie E. Watkins, Bell Watkins and Nancy H. Jenkins
- Lot 78 N ½** Albert Moten, Robert Trimbo, Thomas Jeardeau and Colene Thomas
- Lot 78 S ½** Margaret Williams, Fred F. Williams, Edward M. Williams, David Williams, Eda Faro Williams, Margaret Williams, Georgia Priscilla Williams
- Lot 79**
- Lot 80** Sarilda Chapous, Emma Carroll, John E. Rollins, W. L. Broady, Jr., Lewis Burton Baborn, Jr., Mary E. Rollins, Jessie M. Rollins
- Lot 81** Pheobe Dions and Mary A. Edwards, Charles H. Williams, William Todd, and Lucy Anna Williams
- Lot 82 N ½** Charles Davis, Helen Mable Davis and Harriett Davis
- Lot 82 S ½** J. W. Willis, Zadie Smith, Martha Smith, Moses Smith, Mary Elizabeth Moore
- Lot 83 S ½** William Donegan, William H. Donegan, Robert Peulshook, Sarah Ann Donnegan
- Lot 84 N ½** Edward Johnson, Katherine Johnson and Florence J. Thompson
- Lot 85** Minnie Douglas, Fred Douglas, Mary Douglas, Joseph Douglas, Richard Douglas, John Douglas

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

- Lot 86 N part** Seals Alex Gentry
- Lot 87 N ½** Giles Infant of David, Joseph Hazelwood, Luella Giles, Eunice T. Giles, David M. Giles, Willard G. Giles, Sarah Ann Dyer, Melvina Ford, Hozella Giles Burns
- Lot 87 S ½** Mary M. Bolton and Josephine Davis
- Lot 88 N 1/2** Gloria Gibson
- Lot 88 S ½** Mary Ricks, Charles A. Ricks, Mary Ricks
- Lot 89 N ½** Mary Crenshaw, Eruter Cottman, HESSIE Daisie Clem, Eruter J. Cottman, James H. McGee
- Lot 89 S ½** George T. Hawkins
- Lot 90 N ½** Elizabeth Clay and Henry Clay
- Lot 90 S ½** Martha A. Broady, Charlotte Brodie, Alexander Broady, Henry Broady
- Lot 91 S1/2** Sarah Cooper, Peter Cooper, and Ethel Horton
- Lot 91 S 2/3 of N ½** John M. Wright
- Lot 91 N 1/6** Eva Irene Florville Suggs
- Lot 92** Margie Browner, Nancy White, Harriett Cromeer, Solomon White and Lula White Harrison
- Lot 93 N ½** Ellen Taylor, Joseph Faro and Mary Faro
- Lot 93 S ½** Broady James
- Lot 94** George Ramsey, Anna Johnson, Clennie Brosher Ramsey and Thomas Ramsey
- Lot 95** Audy Harris, Alfred Wilson, J. S. Mason, Lucy W. Jordan, Elizabeth Mason, Callowy Thurman and George Wilson
- Lot 96 N ½** Willar G. Giles, Melvina Ford, Mary Gertrude Giles See 87 ½
- Lot 96 S ½** Gertie Harris, Charles Harris and Sarah Jamison
- Lot 97** James H. Johnson, Ann Johnson, Della Walker and Albert LeRoy Walker
- Lot 98**
- Lot 99** Sarah King
- Lot 100** Edward R. Wormley, Theodore E. Wormley, Emily R. Wormley, Henry Lambert, Robert Wormley, Emma Jane Blanchard, Celia Lambert, Louise Wilson Tucker, Jesse H. Wormley
- Lot 101**
- Lot 102** Alice May Smith, Irene M. Smith, Alice Hubbard, Henry Smith and Bertha Smith Williams
- Lot 103** Emma M. Rector, Mary Brown, Harry C. Brown and John Brown
- Lot 104** Martha J. Hubbard, James E. Hubbard, Helen A. Hubbard, Lulu T. Lee, Sherick B. Hubbard, Mary J. Day, Frank Ruben Wilkins, George N. Hubbard, Louis Warren Hubbard, Sallie Rose, Elizabeth Wilkins
- Lot 105** G. C. Hinton, George W. Brooks, Laura B. Hinton, Goldie Hinton, Clement Hinton and Lucy E. Hinton
- Lot 106** Ida Joinder, Harry A. Joiner, Edward C. Joiner and Francis E. Joiner
- Lot 107** See 104
- Lot 108** Lula Hubbard, William Hubbard, William P. Hubbard, Ethel Hubbard
- Lot 109 N ½** Jessie D. Nex (Payne), Mary Ann Fry and Thomas Franklin Nix
- Lot 109 S ½** Hamilton Infant of Ed., Lee, J. S. D., Mary Belle Lee, John Melvin Lee, May Blossom Hayes, William R. Lee
- Lot 110**
- Lot 114** Mrs. Mary Etta Lee, Maggie Allen, Mollie Skinner and Charles Calvin Lee
- Lot 115** Mary J. Holt, Betty Moore, George H. Smith
- Lot 116** Willie Edwards, Cora Hoffman, Grace Edwards and Cora Burton
- Lot 117** Robert Blakeman, Eugene Blakeman, Elizabeth S. Curtis, Louisa Blakeman
- Lot 118** Rev. Henry Brown, Catherine Lee, Mary Brown, Edward Lee, Nannie B. Morgan and Albert Morgan
- Lot 132** Sarah Jamieson Willis and Edward Jamerson
- Lot 133 C 30 sq. ft.** Sheppard Anderson Ware, Clara Duncan Ware (one grave)
- Lot 134** Bertha Croker

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

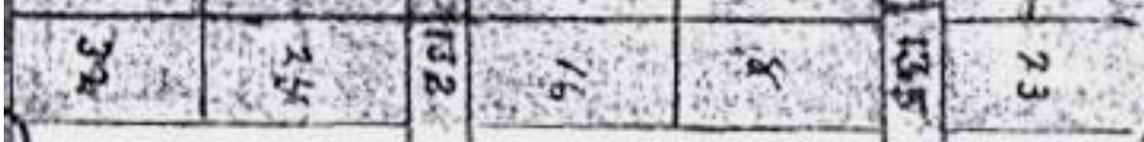
Burials Listed By Rows

Organization of the lots into rows designated from 1 to 13 is shown in the list that follows. Each row contains the lot numbers in that row. The lot numbers are not consecutive.

Row 1

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 36 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→



- Lot 73** Dellecie Freeman, Infant of W. & E. Freeman, Jessee Freeman, Henry Bayler, Infant of Wm. & M. Freeman, Child of Mr. & Mrs. Dickerson, William Freeman, Samuel Ferguson, Lottie Boyd, Lucinda Baylor
- Lot 8** Smith Fry, Mary Fry, Richard Fry, Martha Fry, Henry Fry, Robbie C. Jarbo, Louisa Fry, Nelson Child of William, Irene Nelson, William Fry, Nancy Fry and Fanny Dyer
- Lot 16** Jane Pelham, Sarah Wright, Jamison Jenkins, James Blanks, Jane Watkins Hancock, Lizzie ([Elizabeth-daughter of William L. Florville & Nancy Jenkins??](#)) Florville, Jacqueline P. Wheatley
- Lot 132** Sarah Jamieson Willis and Edward Jamerson
- Lot 24 N ½** Elizabeth Jessey
- Lot 24 S ½** Georgia C. Cooper, Catharine Rollins, Dubfin Jesse, Robert Cooper, Martha A. Cooper and Adelia Woods

Row 2

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 45 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→



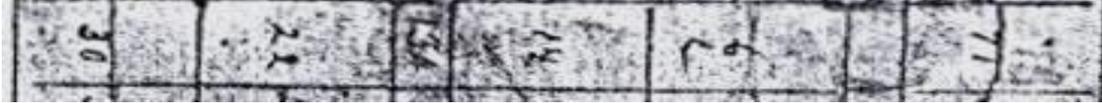
- Lot 72 N ½** Sam Smith, Elizabeth N. Shaffer, Martin Shaffer, and Sylvester Schafer
- Lot 72 S ½** Lottie Watts, Cornelius Gibson, Charles Wilson and John Gibson
- Lot 7** Harriett Ann Clark, Alexander Clark, John Warren, Major Clark, Major Clark and Sarah Harvey
- Lot 15** Edmund Fry, William A. Fry, Lucinda Johnson, Amanda Richardson, Flora Johnson, Nancy Fry
- Lot 133 C 30 sq. ft.** Sheppard Anderson Ware, Clara Ware (one grave)
- Lot 23 N ½** Mrs. Sam Willis (Aquilla Florville), Fannie E. Willis, Emmett Eli Perkins, Jr., Samuel Willis, June Willis and Samuel L. Willis
- Lot 23 S ½** Teressa Davis, Susan C. Davis, Franklin Davis, Retta Gibson and Arminta Thompson
- Lot 31** Sarah Anderson, Harriett A. Anderson, Elmira Parker, Charley R. Parker, Sarah Wright, Thomas Wright, Frieda A. Parker, Clarence Parker, George W. Wright, Susan V. Wright, Thomas McCloud, Mary Wilson

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Row 3

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 52 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→



- Lot 71** N ½ Louella Taylor, John W. Slaughter, Merrit Woody, and Mayme Slaughter
- Lot 71** S ½ Elmer Taborn, Hardy R. Taborn, Henry F. Taborn, John Andrew Taborn, Mary Jane Taborn
- Lot 6** N ½ Paulina Redlich, Johanan Dent, George Kyles, Junior Warsaw Dent, Bretie Smith, William Everet Smith
- Lot 6** S ½ Sydney Donagon, Henry B. Coker, Susan Coker (Donegan?) and George Donagan
- Lot 14** Lue Ella Clark, Willie Parks, Abraham Lewis, Alice Parks, Frank Peterson, Sarah Clark, Martha Parks, Albert Williams, Sampson David, Saide P. Brooks, Louisa David
- Lot 134** Bertha Croker
- Lot 22** N ½ J. Woodford, Ernest Woodford, Belfield Woodford, James Edwards, Eurette Croker
- Lot 22** S ½ Willis F. Wright, Mamie A. Wright
- Lot 30** N ½ Phoebe Florville Coleman, Joseph Florville, William L. Florville, James Clark, William LaRue Florville and Eva Florville
- Lot 30** S ½ Infant of Bitterman, Salomon Frankel, Louis Hamburger, Infant of H. & L Bittermann, Alcina Duncan, Clark Duncan, Julia C. Duncan and Addie L. Duncan

Row 4

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 41 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→



- Lot 74** N ½ Thomas Jackson, John Edward Jackson and Matilda Jackson
- Lot 75**
- Lot 76** S ½ Frederick R. York, A. V. York, Minnie York Rose
- Lot 77** N ½ Ida Moore, A. Robinson Infant, Philip W. Moore, Lillian C. McGee Moore
- Lot 77** S ½ Hugh Eldridge, Nancy Eldridge
- Lot 78** S ½ Annie E. Watkins, Bell Watkins and Nancy H. Jenkins
- Lot 78** N ½ Albert Moten, Robert Trimbo, Thomas Jeardeau and Colene Thomas
- Lot 21** H. Biddeman, Jordan Richardson, D. Florville, S. (Mrs. ?) Richardson, George Richardson, James Richardson, Edward Curtis, Mable Curtis, Ella Boles Richardson, William Richardson
- Lot 29** Ruhara Wright, Addie T. Jones, Hoffman Infant of S., Albert DeCosta, Clifford Wright, Mrs. F. V. Rogers, Martha Wright, Wright Child of Ed, Hoffman Infant of Mrs., Wright child of Martin, Adalaide C. Bouldin, and Marvelle Jones (more)

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Row 5

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 28 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→

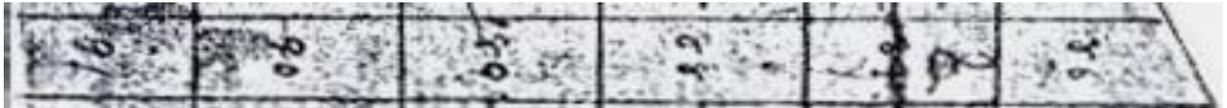


- Lot 85** Minnie Douglas, Fred Douglas, Mary Douglas, Joseph Douglas, Richard Douglas, John Douglas
- Lot 84** N ½ Edward Johnson, Katherine Johnson and Florence J. Thompson
- Lot 83** S ½ William Donegan, William H. Donegan, Robert Peulshook, Sarah Ann Donnegan
- Lot 82** N ½ Charles Davis, Helen Mable Davis and Harriett Davis
- Lot 81** Pheobe Dions and Mary A. Edwards
Charles H. Williams, William Todd, and Lucy Anna Williams
- Lot 80** Sarilda Chapous, Emma Carroll, John E. Rollins, W. L. Broady, Jr., Lewis Burton Baborn, Jr., Mary E. Rollins, Jessie M. Rollins

Row 6

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 24 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→



- Lot 86** N part Seals Alex Gentry
- Lot 87** S ½ Mary M. Bolton and Josephine Davis
- Lot 88** N 1/2 Gloria Gibson
- Lot 88** S ½ Mary Ricks, Charles A. Ricks, Mary Ricks
- Lot 89** N ½ Mary Crenshaw, Eruter Cottman, Hessie Daisie Clem, Eruter J. Cottman, James H. McGee
- Lot 89** S ½ George T. Hawkins
- Lot 90** N ½ Elizabeth Clay and Henry Clay
- Lot 90** S ½ Martha A. Broady, Charlotte Brodie, Alexander Broady, Henry Broady
- Lot 91** S1/2 Sarah Cooper, Peter Cooper, and Ethel Horton
- Lot 91** S 2/3 of N ½ John M. Wright
- Lot 91** N 1/6 Eva Irene Florville Suggs

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Row 7

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 30 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→



Lot 97 James H. Johnson, Ann Johnson, Della Walker and Albert LeRoy Walker

Lot 96 N ½ Willar G. Giles, Melvina For, Mary Gertrude Giles

Lot 96 S ½ Gertie Harris, Charles Harris and Sarah Jamison

Lot 95 Audy Harris, Alfred Wilson, J. S. Mason, Lucy W. Jordan, Elizabeth Mason, Calloway Thurman and George Wilson

Lot 94 George Ramsey, Anna Johnson, Clennie Brosher Ramsey and Thomas Ramsey

Lot 93 N ½ Ellen Taylor, Joseph Faro and Mary Faro

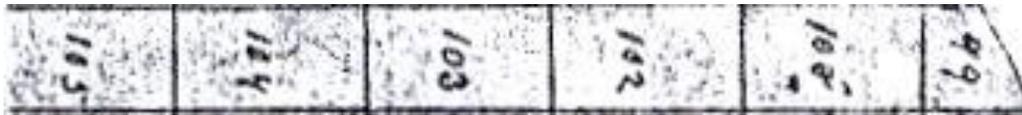
Lot 93 S ½ Broady James

Lot 92 Margie Browner, Nancy White, Harriett Cromeer, Solomon White and Lula White Harrison

Row 8

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 25 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→



Lot 99 Sarah King

Lot 100 Edward R. Wormley, Theodore E. Wormley, Emily R. Wormley, Henry Lambert, Robert Wormley, Emma Jane Blanchard, Celia Lambert, Louise Wilson Tucker, Jesse H. Wormley

Lot 101

Lot 102 Alice May Smith, Irene M. Smith, Alice Hubbard, Henry Smith and Bertha Smith Williams

Lot 103 Emma M. Rector, Mary Brown, Harry C. Brown and John Brown

Lot 104

Lot 105 G. C. Hinton, George W. Brooks, Laura B. Hinton, Goldie Hinton, Clement Hinton and Lucy E. Hinton

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Row 9

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 17 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→



Lot 111

Lot 110

Lot 109 N ½ Jessie D. Nex (Payne), Mary Ann Fry and Thomas Franklin Nix

Lot 109 S ½ Hamilton Infant of Ed., Lee, J. S. D., Mary Belle Lee, John Melvin Lee, May Blossom Hayes, William R. Lee

Lot 108 Lula Hubbard, William Hubbard, William P. Hubbard, Ethel Hubbard

Lot 107

Lot 106 Ida Joinder, Harry A. Joiner, Edward C. Joiner and Francis E. Joiner

Row 10

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 11 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→



Lot 114 Mrs. Mary Etta Lee, Maggie Allen, Mollie Skinner and Charles Calvin Lee

Lot 115 Mary J. Holt, Betty Moore, George H. Smith

Lot 116 Willie Edwards, Cora Hoffman, Grace Edwards and Cora Burton

Row 11

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 10 registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.

North→



Lot 118 Rev. Henry Brown, Catherine Lee, Mary Brown, Edward Lee, Nannie B. Morgan and Albert Morgan

Lot 117 Robert Blakeman, Eugene Blakeman, Elizabeth S. Curtis, Louisa Blakeman

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Row 12

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are __ registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.



Row 13

The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row is pictured below, showing the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are __ registered burials in this row. The names of those buried in this row are shown below opposite the lot number shown in those records.



The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

ROW 1



View of Row 1 Looking South

There are eight stones and nine grave marked burials in Row 1. There are 27 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 36 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

North→



- Lot 73** Dellcie Freeman, Infant of W. & E. Freeman, Jessee Freeman, Henry Bayler, Infant of Wm. & M. Freeman, Child of Mr. & Mrs. Dickerson, William Freeman, Samuel Ferguson, Lottie Boyd, Lucinda Baylor
- Lot 8** Smith Fry, Mary Fry, Richard Fry, Martha Fry, Henry Fry, Robbie C. Jarbo, Louisa Fry, Nelson Child of William, Irene Nelson, William Fry, Nancy Fry and **Fanny Dyer (1.1)**
- Lot 16** **Jane Pelham (1.4)**, Sarah Wright, **Jamison Jenkins (1.2)**, James Blanks, **Jane Watkins Hancock (1.3)**, Lizzie Florville [**Elizabeth**, **daughter of Wm. L. Florville** and **Nancy Jenkins**], Jacqueline P. Wheatley
- Lot 132** Sarah Jamieson Willis and Edward Jamerson
- Lot 24 N ½** **Elizabeth Jessey (1.6)**
- Lot 24 S ½** Georgia C. Cooper, Catharine Rollins, Dubfin Jesse, Robert Cooper, Martha A. Cooper and Adelia Woods

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

1.1 Frances “Fannie” Fry Dyer and Martha Dyer Haynes



1.1 Grave of Frances “Fannie” Fry Dyer and Martha Dyer Haynes

Date of Death: May 17, 1907

Date of Death: _____, 1931

Frances “Fannie” Fry was born on September 17, 1844. Her brother was William Fry. She married John J. Dyer on May 11, 1875.⁸ They had a daughter, Martha, who was born in 1877. Martha married a Mr. Haynes.

Frances Fry Dyer died on May 17, 1907 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. She was survived by 3 children and two sisters and had resided at 905 East Carpenter in Springfield.⁹ Martha Dyer Haynes died on _____, 1931, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁰

⁸ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 1763-1900, 005/0050, Sangamon. Illinois State Archives website, <http://www.ilsos.gov/GenealogyMWeb/marrsrch.html> <http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/marriage.html>
(Hereinafter cited as “Illinois Statewide Marriage Index.”)

⁹ *Journal*, May 18, 1907, p. 6.

¹⁰ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 8 purchased by Henry Fry on February 8, 1865.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

1.2 Jamieson Jenkins



1.2 Grave of Jamieson Jenkins
Date of Death: February 1, 1873

Jamieson Jenkins, a mulatto, was born in North Carolina circa 1806(10)(8).¹¹ In the summer of 1835, he was living in Wake County, North Carolina as a freeman, and he was given a permit to visit Guilford County, North Carolina, a Quaker community that was the Grand Central Station of the underground railroad in the South.¹² The Quakers there most likely assisted Jamieson to begin his journey north from Guilford on the underground railroad, across the Ohio River and into Indiana. In Indiana, Jamieson married Elizabeth Pelham (Pellum), a Virginia-born mulatto who was born circa 1807, the daughter of Jane Pellum. (1.4) In 1844, they had a daughter, Nancy. (4.6) Sometime between Nancy's birth in 1844 and 1848, Jamieson and his family moved to Springfield.

On September 2, 1848, Elizabeth Pellum Jenkins transferred her church membership from the Colored Methodist Church of Springfield to the Second Presbyterian Church, now the Westminster Presbyterian Church—the abolitionist church. On November 5, 1848, Jamieson Jenkins was received into the same church on profession of faith.¹³ This is the first written evidence of Elizabeth and Jamieson Jenkins' presence in Springfield.

The 1850 Census scheduled 42 year-old "Jimison Jarkins", 43 year-old Elizabeth and 6 year-old Nancy. Jamieson is listed as a mulatto drayman. Living with the Jenkins family was

¹¹ The Oak Ridge Cemetery records state that Jamieson was 65 when he died in 1873.

¹² Jamieson Jenkins recorded his Certificate of Freedom with the Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds on March 28, 1846, in Deed Record Book 4, p. 21.

State of North Carolina
Wake County this 12th April 1838

Dear Sir certify that the son of the above Nancy Jenkins was known by me to be a freeman of colour and further certify that I gave him a permit to leave this Country for him to make a visit to Gilford County some time in the summer of 1835.

Ezra Gill

¹³ *Minutes of the Second Presbyterian Church*, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Walnut and Edwards Streets, Springfield, Illinois.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Jane Watkins, a 17 year-old mulatto who had been born in Virginia, and Quilly Ann Watkins, a 12 year-old mulatto who had been born in Indiana.¹⁴ The family resided in Springfield on the east side of Eighth Street, between Jackson and Edwards Streets, a block south of the Lincoln home.

Living next door to the Jenkins family in the household of James Blanks was 14 year-old mulatto Bellfield Jenkins who was born in Indiana¹⁵ Also living in the household were 35 year-old Martha A. Blanks, James' wife, and Jane Pellum, age 62 (1.4) the mother of Elizabeth P. Jenkins, both of whom were born in Virginia. Also living in the household was 13 year old Lydiann Gibson who was born in Indiana.

Jameison Jenkins Underground Railway Conductor

On the evening of January 16, 1850, Jamieson Jenkins assisted seven runaway slaves move 60 miles north along the underground railroad from Springfield to Bloomington. During the week that followed, Springfield's *Journal* and *Register* newspapers printed five confusing and sometimes contradictory reports on the presence of the runaway slaves and called the events that transpired a "slave stampede." It was initially and incorrectly rumored around Springfield that Jamieson Jenkins had betrayed the slaves, resulting in their capture.

On January 17, 1850, the *Register* reported that on the previous day Springfield citizens had captured eleven runaway slaves belonging to citizens of St. Louis. On the same day, the *Journal* reported that fourteen runaway slaves from St. Louis and Kentucky were discovered in Springfield on their way north. Three men attempted to arrest them, but a fight ensued. Only one slave, a lame negro, was arrested and placed in the city jail.

On January 18, 1850, the *Register* corrected its January 17 report that eleven runaway slaves had been captured. It reported that only eight were caught, and that after publication of the January 17 paper, seven escaped. The remaining slave, the lame negro, was "now in jail." Three days later, the *Register* reported that the captured lame slave had been brought before the Supreme Court upon a writ of *habeas corpus* and released.

On January 22, 1850, the *Journal* published a letter signed "Justice" concerning what he called the "slave stampede in our neighborhood."

We have received a communication in relation to the late "slave stampede" in our neighborhood, of this tenor:

Rumor may have it, that it was a colored person [Jameson Jenkins] who betrayed the runaways last week. But unfortunately the one they accuse of having done so, started north with a part of the same gang the night before the capture. And this rumor was only to prevent, and may be save the 'under-ground car' from being upset or overtaken.

"Justice"¹⁶

¹⁴ 1850 United States Census, p. 194. 1860 United States Census, p. 122. *Williams' Springfield Directory, City Guide and Business Mirror, for 1860-61*, Compiled by C. S. Williams, Springfield, Illinois, Johnson & Bradford, Booksellers and Stationers, West Side of Public Square, 1860. *Springfield City Directory, For 1857-'58*, compiled by B. Winters, & Co., published by B. Winters & Co., Springfield, S. H. Jameson & Co., Printers, Republican Office, 1857. . *Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois*, John Carroll Power, Springfield, Illinois, 1876, p. 303. (Herein referred to as "Power".) *Historical Base Map, Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois*, Edwin C. Bearss, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, November 30, 1969, pp. 84-86. On April 9, 1861, William LaRue Fleurville, the son of William "Billy the Barber" and Phoebe Fleurville, married 17-year-old Nancy Jenkins, the daughter of Jameson and Elizabeth Pelham Jenkins. *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 00001245 Sangamon.

¹⁵ 1850 Census, Page: 117, Roll: M432_127. 1850 census, p. 194.

¹⁶ *Journal*, January 22, 1850, p. 3, cl. 1.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

On January 23, 1850, the *Journal* printed a letter of response from “A Friend to Justice” which stated that the rumor that the runaway slaves had been betrayed by a local African American [Jamieson Jenkins] was false and in fact, the rumor was a ruse “to prevent, and maybe, to save the underground car from being upset or overtaken.” Jenkins had in fact gone north by stage to Bloomington with some of the runaway slaves. The affidavit of J. C. Goodhue, stage coach agent, stated, “This is to certify that Mr. Jenkins left for Bloomington on the 16th day of January, 1850 in the stage.” The letter reads as follows:

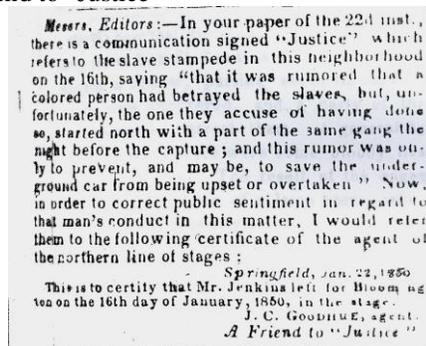
Messrs, Editors:--In your paper of the 22d inst., there is a communication signed “Justice” which refers to the slave stampede in this neighborhood on the 16th, saying “that it was rumored that a colored person had betrayed the slaves, but, unfortunately, the one they accuse of having done so, started north with a part of the same gang the night before the capture; and this rumor was only to prevent, and maybe, to save the underground car from being upset or overtaken.” Now, in order to correct public sentiment in regard to that man’s conduct in this matter, I would refer them to the following certificate of the agent of the northern line of stages:

Springfield, January 22, 1850

This is to certify that Mr. Jenkins left for Bloomington on the 16th day of January, 1850, in the stage.

J. C. Goodhue, agent.

A Friend to “Justice”¹⁷



Journal Report on Capture of Runaway Slaves Captured¹⁸

On August 29, 1851, Jamieson Jenkins’ membership in the Second Presbyterian Church was terminated due to his having failed to answer charges of not attending Church meetings and licentiousness.¹⁹

August 5, 1851. Session met & was opened with prayer. Members present. Joseph Thayer, Thomas Moffett, E. B. Hawley & the pastor. Absent. John B. Watson. C. R. Miller.

Jamieson Jenkins a member of the Church was charged with breach of covenant in not attending the meetings of the Church, and also with licentiousness. A copy of the charges were made out, and E. B. Hawley and C.R. Welles, appointed a committee to notify him of this charge & the time for the trial, as the Book of discipline directs.

August 29. The serving of the notice for trial with the charges was duly attended to by the Committee appointed in the case of Jamieson Jenkins as above. The time of trial was set & he, not appearing was subsequently notified again. At the time appointed for the second meeting of the session to attend to his case, he did not appear. The session now being convened & deeming it needless to make further attempts to bring said Jenkins before them, it was voted that he be cut of from the Church for contumacy. Session adjourned. Closed with prayer.

Albert Hale stated clerk²⁰

¹⁷ *Journal*, January 23, 1850.

¹⁸ *Journal*, January 23, 1850.

¹⁹ *Minutes of Session and Church Register, Second Presbyterian Church*, Vol. 1, 1835-1867; these records are archived at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Walnut and Edwards Streets, Springfield, Illinois.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

In 1855, the Jamieson Jenkins family was living on the east side of Eighth Street, between Jackson and Edwards Streets. This was in the block south of the Abraham Lincoln family home. Jamieson was making his living as a drayman.²¹

“...black women Jane Jenkins colored woman did not live there (*at Lincoln’s home*)—in next block...”²²

In the 1860 Census and Springfield City Directory, the Jamieson Jenkins family was still living down the street from the Lincolns and 50 year-old Jamieson was making his living as a drayman. His wife Elizabeth was a 45 year-old washerwoman.²³ Their daughter Nancy was 16 years old. Also living in the household was Quilly Ann Watkins, a 20 year-old mulatto who was born in Indiana.²⁴ Elizabeth had \$880 worth of real estate and \$45 worth of personal property.

On February 11, 1861, Jamieson Jenkins drove President-elect Abraham Lincoln on his last Springfield carriage ride from the Chenery House at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington Streets to the Great Western Railroad depot to begin his trip to Washington.²⁵

The underground Railroad developed to help fugitive slaves escape from the South and reach freedom farther North. Rumors circulated that an Underground Railroad was operating in Springfield. The presumed “conductor” was Jameson Jenkins, a mixed race Springfielder from North Carolina. Jenkins, a drayman, was a forty-year-old family man with a wife and daughter. His wife was a native Virginia, and his daughter was born in Indiana, indicating that the trajectory Jenkins followed to Illinois probably took him through those two states. Jenkins was a fairly successful drayman, owning 50 percent more property than the average African American, suggesting that he operated his own cart or “dray.” He also managed to harbor two free African American girls in his household of five. On the day that Abraham Lincoln left Springfield for Washington, Jenkins drove him to the railroad station.²⁶

On April 9, 1861, Nancy H. Jenkins (4.6) married William L. Florville, (3.10) in Springfield. They had at least three children, Aquilla, Uretta and Elizabeth.²⁷ [Mary and Nancy H. Jenkins are likely the same person.](#)

On February 1, 1873, Jamieson Jenkins, age 65(7) died, and was buried Oak Ridge Cemetery.²⁸

²⁰ *Minutes of the Second Presbyterian Church.*

²¹ *1855 Illinois Census. 1855 City Directory.*

²² *Herndon’s Informants, Letters, Interviews, and Statements about Abraham Lincoln*, Edited by Douglas L. Wilson and Rodney O. Davis, University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago, 1998, p. 597. Jesse W. Weik interview of Margaret Ryan, October 27, 1886. ISHL, Weik Papers, box 2, Memorandum Book 1.

²³ *1860 Illinois Census. 1860 City Directory. Power*, p. 303. *Base Map*, pp. 84-86.

²⁴ *1860 Census*, p. 122. *1857-58 C.D. 1860 C.D.*

²⁵ *Washington Star*, February 12, 1861. *Memories of Lincoln*, Thomas D. Jones, New York, Press of the Pioneers, 1934, p. 16.

²⁶ *Winkle*, p. 263.

²⁷ *Power*, p. 303. [Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, No. 0001245.](#)

²⁸ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 16 purchased by Bell Watkins on November 11, 1867.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

1.3 Jane Watkins Hancock



**1.3 Grave of Jane Watkins Hancock
Date of Death: April 20, 1879**

Jane Watkins, a mulatto, was born on July 27, 1832 in Virginia. In 1850, she was living with the Jamison Jenkins family in Springfield.²⁹ She married Mr. Hancock. She died on April 20, 1879, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.³⁰

²⁹ *1850 Census*, Page: 117, Roll: M432_127.

³⁰ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 16 purchased by Bell Watkins on November 11, 1867.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

1.4 Jane Pellum



1.4 Grave of Jane Pellum
Date of Death: November 9, 1867

Jane Pellum was born in Virginia in 1787. Jane was the mother of Elizabeth Pellum who married Jamieson Jenkins. On November 9, 1867, Jane Pellum, age 80, died and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.³¹

Jane Pellum, a 68 year old mulatto woman known as Aunt Pellum, was a member of the First Methodist Church. In 1856 where she was assigned the back seat on the north side of the church. The Church also provided a load of wood for her. The following accounts of Aunt Pellum are from histories of the First Methodist Church.

...The back seat on the north side was given to Aunt Pelham. Shortly thereafter the preacher was directed to purchase a load of wood for her, or else pay her \$3.00 from the Poor Fund so that she might buy her own.³²

³¹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 16 purchased by Bell Watkins on November 11, 1867.

³² *First Methodist Church, Springfield, Illinois 125 Years*, W. G. Piersel, Published by the Official Board for the 125 Anniversary Celebration, First Methodist Church, Springfield, Illinois, January 1947, p. 16.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

There were several sisters who were a great help in the church. ...efficient workers for the Savior, and always ready for every good word and work. There was a colored sister too who was a very devote Christian, Auntya. She was a woman of strong faith, always in her place in the sanctuary when her infirmities would permit, and though very poor and a great suffering, bearing all without a murmur.³³

In the 1860 Census, Jane Pellum was shown as living with the Jamieson Jenkins family on the east side of Eighth Street, between Edwards and Jackson Streets, just one block south of the Lincoln home. She was a 75 year old mulatto washerwoman who had been born in Virginia.³⁴



There is a depression in the ground before the next photograph, 1.5.

1.5 Base With Hole



1.5 Base with hole

³³ *Methodism in Illinois*, James Learnton, pastor 1858-1859, conference historian, pp. 3-4. See also, *First Methodist Church*, Kalb, _____, August 23, 1884, p. 24.

³⁴ *1860 Census*, p. 122 (75)(f)(M)(Va.). 0/\$30.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

1.6 East Side: Elizabeth Jessie



**1.6 East Side: Grave of Elizabeth Jessie [Jelsy][Jessy]
Date of Death: July 21, 1874**

Elizabeth ___ was born on August 11, _____. She married Daniel Jessie on _____. She died on July 21, 1874, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

1.6 North Side: Mary F. Jessie



**1.6 North Side: Grave of Mary F. Jessie
[Jelsy][Jessy]
Date of Death: September __, 18__**

Mary F. Jessie was born on _____, the daughter of ___ and ___ Jessie. She died on September __, 18__ and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

1.6 South Side: Daniel Jessie



**1.6 South Side: Grave of Daniel Jessie [Jelsy][Jessy]
Date of Death: November 31, 1892**

Daniel Jessie was born on March 11, 1813(6). He was married to Elizabeth. He died on November 31, 1892, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.³⁵

³⁵ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 24 N. ½ purchased by D. Jessy on July __, 1874.

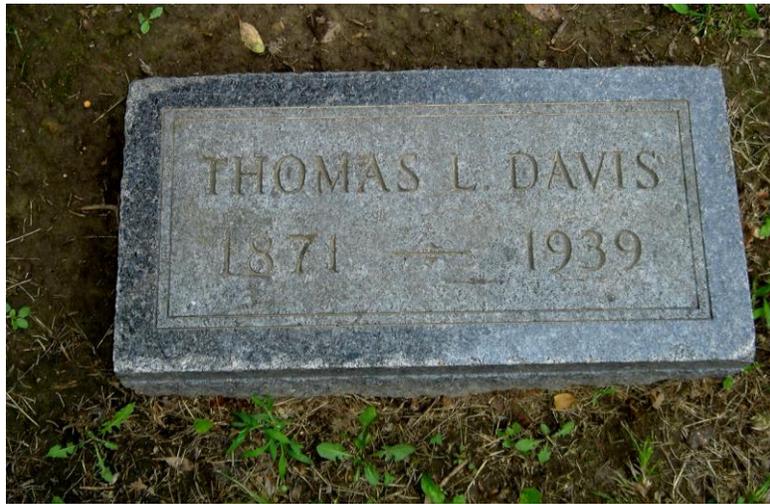
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

1.7 Wright Base



1.7 Wright Base

1.8 Thomas L. Davis



1.8 Grave of Thomas L. Davis
Date of Death: December 28, 1939

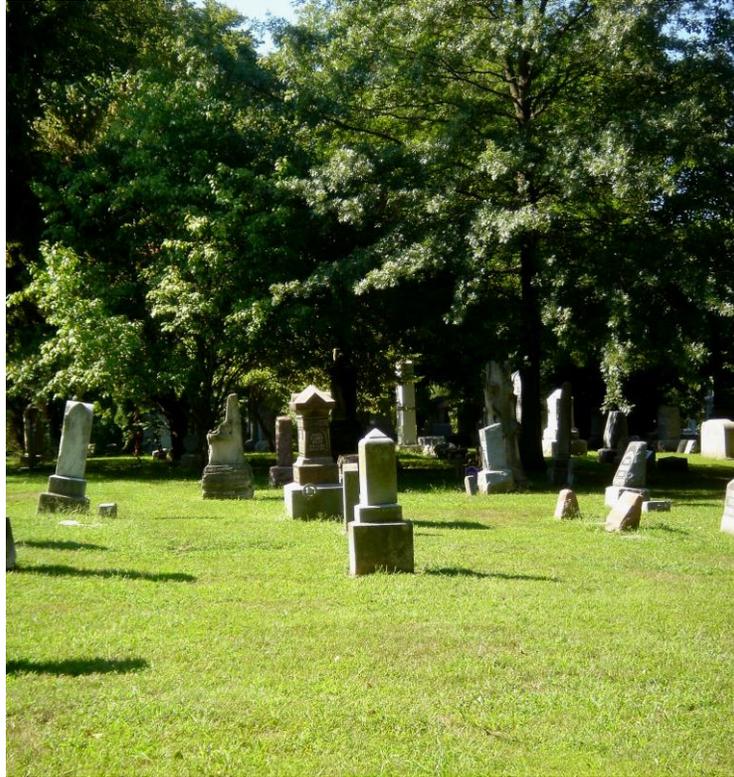
Thomas L. Davis died on December 28, 1939 at age 68 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.³⁶ The *Journal* reported that he was a former resident of Springfield and had died at St. Joseph's Home, Bloomington, Illinois.³⁷

³⁶ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 32 S. 1/2 purchased by Leonah Knox on Jun 26, 1876.

³⁷ *Journal*, December 29, 1939, p. 12.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

ROW 2



View of Row 2 Looking South

There are twelve stones and 30 grave marked burials in Row 2. There are 15 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 45 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

North→



- Lot 72 N ½** Sam Smith (2.1), Elizabeth N. Shaffer, Martin Shaffer, and Sylvester Schafer
Lot 72 S ½ Lottie Watts (2.3), Cornelius Gibson (2.5), Charles Wilson (2.2) and John Gibson (2.4)
Lot 7 Harriett Ann Clark, Alexander Clark, John Warren, Major Clark, Major Clark and Sarah Harvey
Lot 15 Edmund Fry (2.6), (2.7), William A. Fry, Lucinda Johnson, Amanda [Fry Ball] Richardson (2.6), Flora Johnson, Nancy Fry (2.6)
Lot 133 C 30 sq. ft. Sheppard Anderson Ware, Clara [Duncan] Ware (one grave)(2.8)
Lot 23 N ½ Mrs. Sam Willis (Aquilla Florville) (2.9), Fannie E. Willis (2.9), Emmett Eli Perkins, Jr., Samuel Willis (2.9), June Willis and Samuel L. Willis (2.9)
Lot 23 S ½ Teressa Davis, Susan C. Davis (2.10), Franklin Davis, Retta Gibson (2.10) and Arminta Thompson
Lot 31 Sarah Anderson, Harriett A. Anderson, Elmira Parker (2.12), Charley R. Parker (2.12), Sarah Wright, Thomas Wright, Frieda A. Parker, Clarence Parker (2.12), George W. Wright, Susan V. Wright, Thomas McCloud (2.11), Mary Wilson

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

2.1 Samuel Smith



2.1 Grave of Samuel Smith
Date of Death: October 3, 1892

Samuel Smith died on October 3, 1892, at age 62 years, 3 months and 23 days,³⁸ and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. His epitaph reads: *“May he rest in peace.”*

2.2 Charles Gibson Wilson



2.2 Grave of Charles Gibson Wilson
Date of Death: June 27, 1925

Charles Gibson Wilson was born in 1909. He died on June 27, 1925 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.³⁹

³⁸ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 72 N. 1/2 purchased by Martin and Elizabeth Shaffer on October 5, 1892.

³⁹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 72 S. 1/2 purchased by Cornelius Gibson on June 11, 1912.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

2.3 Lottie Gibson Watts



2.3 Grave of Lottie Gibson Watts
Date of Death: February 21, 1911

Lottie Gibson Watts was born in 1874. She died on February 21, 1911, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁴⁰

2.4 John Gibson



2.4 Grave of John Gibson
Date of Death: October 4, 1935

John Gibson was born in Illinois in 1870, the son of Cornelius and ____ Gibson. In the 1900 census, Cornelius is listed as a 53 year-old janitor living on East Reynolds Street (Ward 1) with his son, John, who was listed as having been born in September 1870 in Illinois. John was listed as a day laborer. In 1926, John Gibson is listed as a laborer living at 415 North 15th Street.⁴¹ John Gibson died on October 4, 1935, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁴²

2.5 Cornelius Gibson



2.5 Grave of Cornelius Gibson
Date of Death: June 23, 1916

Cornelius Gibson was born in January 1847 in Mississippi.⁴³ Both of his parents were born in Virginia. On April 9, 1867, he married Mary Ann Stevens.⁴⁴ In 1880, he was a 30 year-old single black man employed as a servant.⁴⁵ In 1887 he was a laborer residing at 415 North 15th Street. In the 1900 census, Cornelius is listed as a 53 year-old janitor living on East Reynolds Street (Ward 1) with his son, John. (2.4) Cornelius Gibson died on June 23, 1916, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁴⁶

⁴⁰ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 72 S. ½ purchased by Cornelius Gibson on June 11, 1912.

⁴¹ *Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens*, Springfield Directory Company, 1926.

⁴² *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 72 S. ½ purchased by Cornelius Gibson on June 11, 1912.

⁴³ *1900 Census, Springfield Ward 1, Sangamon, Illinois*; Roll: T623 342; Page: 9B; Enumeration District: 86.

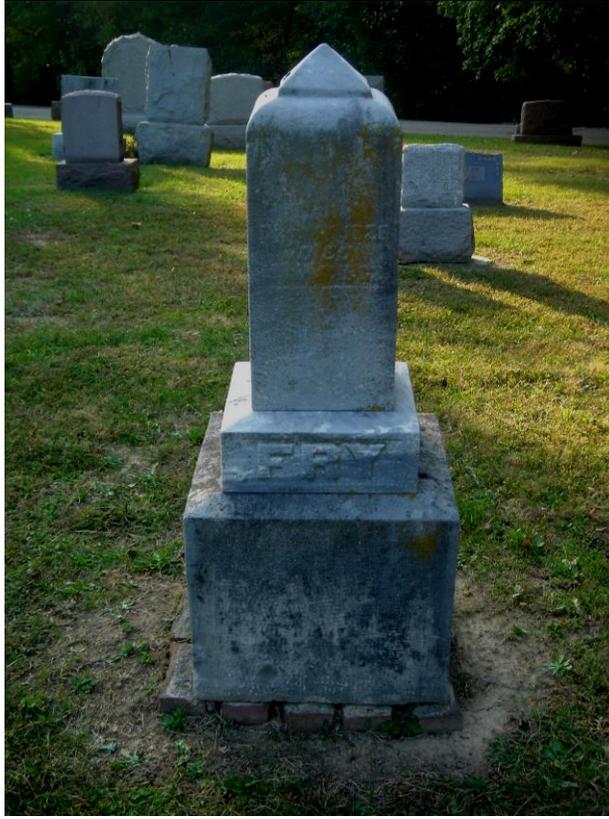
⁴⁴ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 00002541 Sangamon.

⁴⁵ 1880 Census, Springfield, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T9_249; Family History Film: 1254249; Page: 224.4000; Enumeration District: 229; Image: 0738.

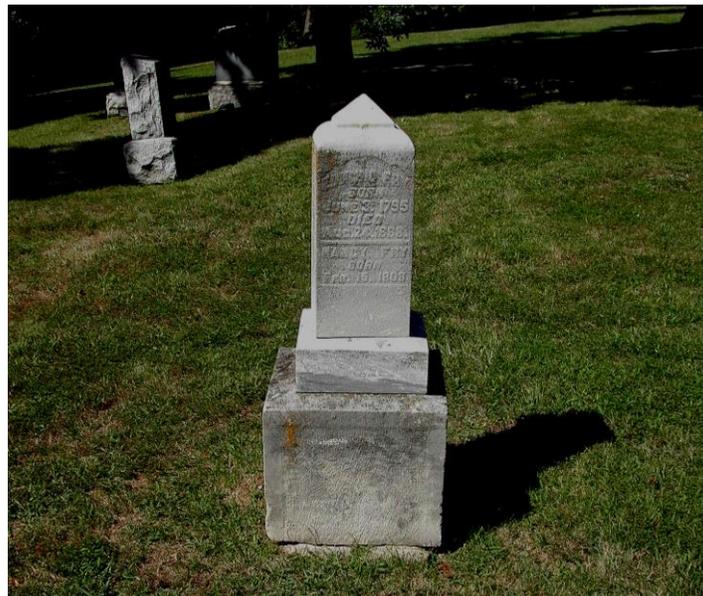
⁴⁶ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 72 S ½ purchased by Cornelius Gibson on June 11, 1912.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

2.6 East Side: _____ Fry



2.6 South Side: Edmund and Nancy Fry



**2.6 South Side: Graves of Edmund and Nancy Fry
Date of Death: August 24, 1868
Date of Death: March 21, 1904**

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



Nancy Fry was born in Kentucky on December 15, 1808, the daughter of _____ and _____ Fry. Nancy's father was born in Kentucky and her mother was born in North Carolina. She is listed in the 1850 census of Springfield as a 12 year-old mulatto who was born in Illinois.⁴⁷ She married Edmund Fry. The 1887 Springfield City Directory lists Nancy as residing at 1143 North 1st Street. In the 1900 Census, Nancy is listed as a 92 year-old black residing on North 1st Street. Residing with her are Champ and Emma Singleton, one of whom was her grandchild. She could neither read nor write.⁴⁸

On March 21, 1904, 96 year old Nancy Fry, the widow of Edmund Fry, died and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁴⁹

*2.6 West Side: Amanda Fry Ball Richardson



2.6 West Side: Grave of Amanda Fry Ball Richardson
Date of Death: May 4, 1882

⁴⁷ 1850 Census, Page: 192, Roll: M432_127.

⁴⁸ 1900 Census, Springfield Ward 3, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T623 343; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 92.

⁴⁹ Oak Ridge Cemetery Records, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 8 purchased by Henry Fry on February 8, 1865.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Amanda Fry was born on December 9, 1826, in Kentucky, the daughter of Richard and Mary Fry.⁵⁰ On April 2, 1846, the *Journal* reported that the Reverend Albert Hale, minister of the Second Presbyterian Church, had married 36 year-old Samuel S. Ball and 20 year-old Amanda Fry. They were licensed to marry on March 21, 1846.⁵¹ Their children were Jonathon, Smith, Edward F., born in 1847, Mary L. and Elizabeth, born in 1850.

Samuel S. Ball died on September 16, 1852. He died without a will. On September 18, 1852, Samuel's father-in-law Edmund Fry (2.7) filed a petition to administer the estate in the Sangamon County Court. The petition is in the handwriting of William H. Herndon, leading one to conclude that the firm of Lincoln and Herndon represented the estate of Samuel S. Ball.⁵² On September 20, 1852, Robert J. Robinson, a "colored barber" according to the *1859 City Directory of Springfield*, and Andrew W. Jackson⁵³ were appointed administrators of the Estate of Samuel S. Ball. Where is he buried?

Amanda remarried on August 12, 1869 to Cyrus C. Richardson.⁵⁴ She died on May 4, 1882 at age 65 of cancer of the stomach, and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

2.7 Edmund Fry



2.7 Grave of Edmund Fry
Date of Death: August 24, 1868

Edmund Fry was born on June 3, 1795, in Kentucky. He came to Springfield in 1838. In the 1840 census of Springfield, Edmund was listed as a "free colored person." He was living

⁵⁰ *1881 History Of Sangamon County, Illinois*, Inter-State Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1881, p. 740. (Herein referred to as "1881 History.")

⁵¹ *Journal*, April 23, 1846, p. 2, cl. 6. *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900*, 002/0240.

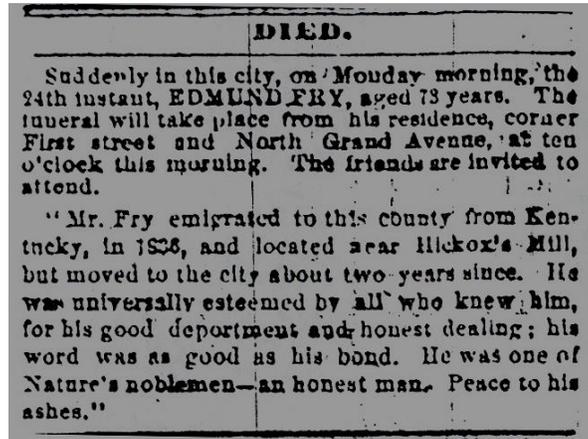
⁵² *Samuel Ball Probate*, Sangamon County Circuit Court records, Illinois Regional Archives, Brookens Library, University of Illinois at Springfield, Springfield, Illinois. (Hereinafter referred to as "IRAD.")

⁵³ Mr. Ball has visited that country, and is acquainted with all the difficulties which emigrants have to encounter. He with the Rev. A. W. Jackson, of Jacksonville, are the agents chosen by the colored people to locate this colony. As to Mr. Ball, he is too well known to the people of this State to require any thing from us in commendation of his character, -- and as for Mr. Jackson, we learn that he is a man of unexceptionable character, and a very intelligent Minister of the gospel.

⁵⁴ *Illinois Marriages, 1851-1900 Record*.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

with two females who were also free colored persons. He married Nancy Fry on _____. He and Nancy are probably the parents of Amanda Ball. At the time of his death he lived at First Street and North Grand Avenue. He died on August 24, 1868, at age 73 of heart disease and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁵⁵



Obituary of Edmund Fry⁵⁶



2.8 Dr. Sheppard Anderson and Clara A. (nee Duncan) Ware



2.8 Dr. Sheppard Anderson Ware and Clara A. (nee Duncan) Ware

Date of Death: January 8, 1948

Date of Death: November 2, 1968

Clara A. Duncan was born on September 12, 1882, the second daughter of Clark Duncan (3.14) and Julia C. Chaverous Duncan.⁵⁷ Clara was the granddaughter of Alseen (Alcene)

⁵⁵ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 15 purchased by Edward F. Ball, the son of Amanda Fry and Samuel S. Ball, on August 28, 1868. 1524 1 050 Edmund Fry 73 2 21 Heart Disease 5 15.

⁵⁶ *Journal*, August 1868.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Florville (3.11) and Mahlon Chavorous and the great granddaughter of Phoebe Rountree (3.11) and William Florville. The Clark Duncan family lived at 312 North Thirteenth Street. Clara graduated from Springfield High School and became a teacher.

Dr. Sheppard Anderson Ware was born in 1872. When as a young physician he arrived in Springfield from Tennessee, he boarded with the Clark Duncan family. In 1904, Sheppard and Clara were married. Sheppard practiced for many years at 627 East Adams. Clara and Sheppard Ware had no children, but reared two foster children. In 1926, they lived at 1520 East Washington Street.⁵⁸ The Doctor became an active member of the Springfield Urban League. He died on January 8, 1948, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁵⁹ Clara died on November 2, 1968, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁶⁰

Dr. S. A. WARE, A. B., M. D.

Dr. Ware is Springfield's pioneer colored physician, having been in active practice for more than thirty years.

He has been very successful due to his thorough preparation and close application to his work. In fact he has built up a large and lucrative practice among a clientele embracing people of all nationalities.



At present he holds a position with the state board of health, being connected with social pathological work, to which department of medicine he has given especial study and research.

He is intensely human, and has none of that aloofness characteristic of many professional people. His patients and the general public regard him not only as an able physician but also as friend and genial fellow citizen.

Especially notable is Dr. Ware's musical accomplishments. He is a member of the musician's union and is also active in social circles.

His rare singing has captivated many audiences, so that it is evident Dr. Ware is a man of talent and versatility.

An intense race man at all times, a genial good fellow to meet, charitable in impulses, of broad and liberal views, Dr. Ware is well worthy of the great esteem in which he is held by the people of central Illinois.

Dr. Sheppard Anderson Ware's Biography and Photograph⁶⁰

⁵⁷ Ancestry.com, 1910 United States Federal Census (Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2006), Database online. Springfield Ward 1, Sangamon, Illinois, ED , roll T624_325.

⁵⁸ Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens, Springfield Directory Company, 1926.

⁵⁹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 133 c 30 sq. ft. purchased by Mrs. S. A. Ware on January 8, 1948. Mrs. Ware is buried in the same grave.

⁶⁰ *Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens*, Springfield Directory Company, 1926.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



2.9 East Side: Samuel LaRue and Aquilla Lillian L. Florville Willis



2.9 East Side Graves of Samuel LaRue and Aquilla Lillian L. Florville Willis
Date of Death: April 5, 1920
Date of Death: March 7, 1894

Samuel LaRue Willis was born in 1856. Aquilla Lillian Florville was born on May 5, 1863, the daughter of William LaRue and Nancy H. Jenkins Florville and the granddaughter of William and Phoebe Rountree Florville. (3.11) Aquilla married Samuel T. Willis in Sangamon County on November 22, 1882.⁶¹ [Aquilla Lillian Florville Willis and Samuel T. Willis had 2 children, Samuel LaRue and Uretta.](#) The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists Samuel as working at Doull's restaurant and residing at 1320 Adams Street.

~~L. LaRue~~ Samuel LaRue Willis died on April 5, 1920, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Aquilla Lillian Florville Willis died on March 7, 1894, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁶²

⁶¹ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900, 005/0421.*

⁶² *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records, Springfield, Illinois.* Block 5, Lot 23 N. ½ purchased by S. L. Willis on March 7, 1894.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



**2.9 West Side: James H. Woodford, Euretta Florville Woodford Croker,
James Edwards, Bellfield and Ernest Woodford**



2.9 West Side: Graves of James H. Woodford, Euretta Florville Woodford Croker, James Edwards, Bellfield and Ernest Woodford

Date of Death: March 19, 1896

Date of Death: March 20, 1943

Date of Death: April 10, 1905

Date of Death: April 14, 1890

Date of Death: April 15, 1896

James H. Woodford, born in 1859, married Euretta E. Florville on June 20, 1888, in Sangamon County, Illinois.⁶³ Euretta was the daughter of Mary Jenkins and William LaRue Florville and the granddaughter of Phoebe (3.11) and William Florville.⁶⁴

James Edwards was born in 1859. He died on April 10, 1905, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Bellfield Woodford was born in 1889. He died in Chicago on April 14, 1890, of convulsions. He was “removed” to Lot 22 of the Colored Section of Oak Ridge Cemetery on April 24, 1896.⁶⁵

Ernest Woodford was born in 1893. He died on April 15, 1896, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

⁶³ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index.*

⁶⁴ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 22 N. ½ purchased by Mrs. Sinette Woodford on April 16, 1896.

⁶⁵ 9156 2 195 Belfield, Woodford, 11 Convulsions 5 16, Late Residence Chicago, Illinois (Colored); Removed to Lot 22 N1/2, Block 5, April 24/96

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



2.9 North Side: Samuel LaRue Willis, Jr.



**2.9 North Side: Grave of Samuel LaRue Willis, Jr.
Date of Death: March 12, 1978**

2.9 South Side: Fannie Day Willis



**2.9 South Side: Grave of Fannie Day Willis
Date of Death: June 3, 1976**



Samuel LaRue Willis, Jr. was the son of Samuel T. (LaRue) and Aquilla Lillian Willis. Fannie Day was born on July 2, 1891. Fannie married Samuel LaRue Willis, Jr., and they had two children, Norman and James Willis. In 1926, Samuel La Rue Willis, Jr. is listed as a city fireman living at 1330 East Adams Street.⁶⁶

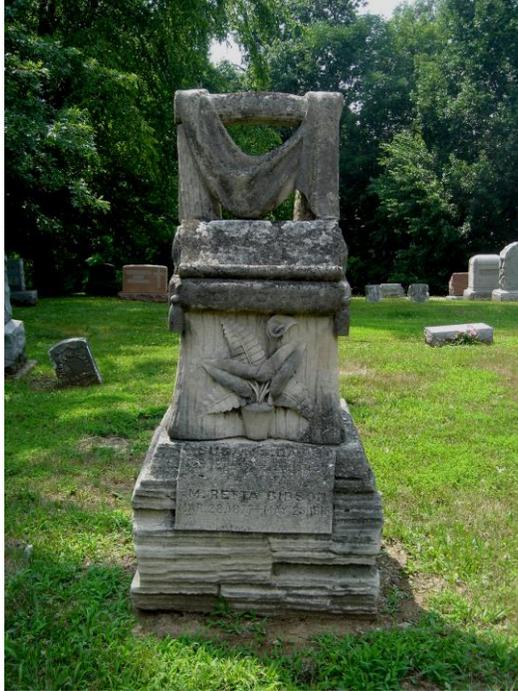
Fannie died on June 3, 1976, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Samuel LaRue Willis, Jr. died on March 12, 1978, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁶⁷

⁶⁶ *Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens*, Springfield Directory Company, 1926.

⁶⁷ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 23 N. ½ purchased by S. L. Willis on March 7, 1894.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

2.10 East Side: Susan C. Davis and M. Retta Gibson



2.10 Graves of Susan C. Davis and M. Retta Gibson
Date of Death: February 15, 1917
Date of Death: May 25, 1915⁶⁸

Susan C. Davis was born on _____. She died on February 15, 1917, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

M. Retta Gibson was born on March 28, 1877. She died on May 25, 1915, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

2.10 North Side: Daisy E. Davis



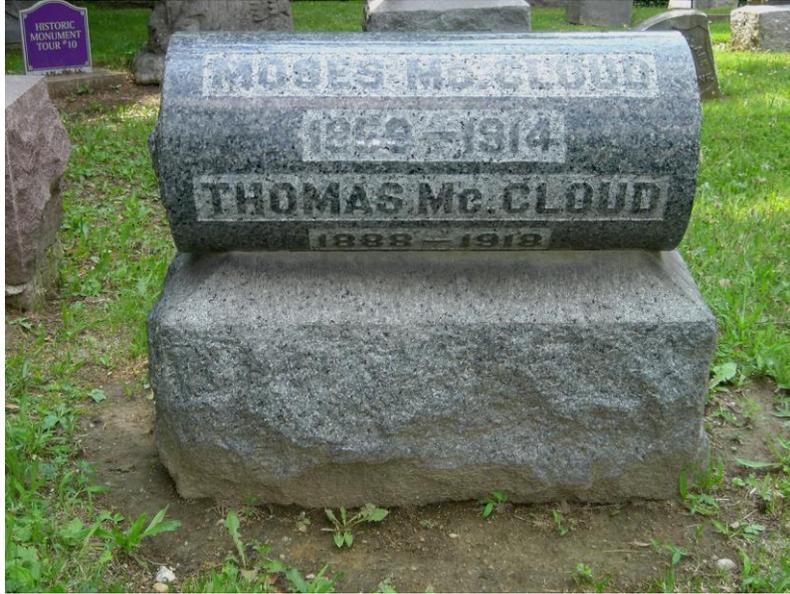
2.10 North Side: Grave of Daisy E. Davis
Date of Death: April 15, 1874

Daisy E. Davis was born on June 2, 1873. She died on April 15, 1874, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

⁶⁸ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 23 S. 1/2 purchased by Susan C. Davis on December 31, 1895.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

2.11 Moses and Thomas McCloud



2.11 Graves of Moses and Thomas McCloud

Date of Death: _____, 1914

Date of Death: October 2, 1918

Moses McCloud was born circa 1859 (1855) in South Carolina, as were his parents.⁶⁹ Moses married Julia A. Taborn on September 27, 1882, in Sangamon County, Illinois. The *1887 City Directory* lists Moses as a cook who resided at 1520 Mason Street. In the 1910 Census, Moses was listed as a street laborer. Moses and Julia had at least four children: Mary, Cecile, Thomas and Louis. Moses died on ____, 1914, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

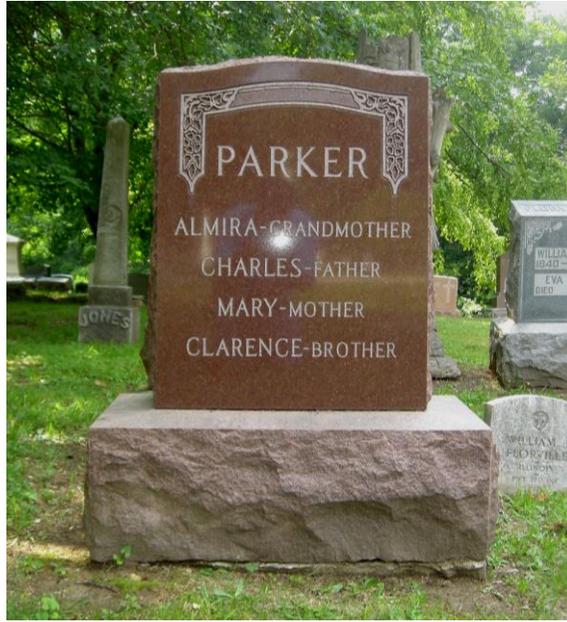
Thomas McCloud was born in Illinois on September 20, 1888, the son of Julia Taborn and Moses McCloud.⁷⁰ He died on October 2, 1918, at age 30 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

⁶⁹ 1900; *Census Place*: Springfield Ward 1, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T623 342; Page: 7B; Enumeration District: 86. *1910 Census*, Series: T624, Roll: 325 , Part: 1 , Page: 23B.

⁷⁰ Roll: 1642741, *Draft Board*: 2.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

2.12 Almira, Charles R., Mary and Clarence Parker



2.12 Graves of Almira, Charles R., Mary and Clarence Parker

Date of Death: January 22, 1881

Date of Death: July 19, 1886

Date of Death: _____

Date of Death: April 28, 1913

Charles R. Parker was born about 1838 in Illinois, the son of _____ and Almira Parker.⁷¹

The *Register* of July 30, 1859 reported that Charles Parker had pled guilty and was fined \$3 for assaulting Edward Cauter.

City Intelligence.

Police Items.--Before Justice Dodge:

Charles Parker, the "cullid individual" who was up before Justice Francis day before yesterday, for assault on one Edward Cauter, another sable "genmen," and nonsuited the city, yesterday plead guilty before Justice Dodge, who fined him \$3 and costs.

Judging from the meagreness of the record the boys must have been unusually sober and quiet yesterday.⁷²

On September 14, 1859, Charles Parker advertised in the *Register* that he was conducting a delivery service from the Chenery House at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington Streets.⁷³

CITY EXPRESS.

Chas. Parker will always be found at the Chenery House barber shop, and will deliver promptly to any part of the city, notes, parcels, bundles, &c., for gentlemen or ladies, and solicits their favors in this line. Bill sticking attended to as usual. CHARLES PARKER.

September 16, 1859

In 1860, Charles Parker resided at the northeast corner of Fourth and Mason Streets.⁷⁴ He was listed as a colored bill poster and porter. In 1860, Charles' mother, Almira Parker, was

⁷¹ 1870 Census, Roll: M593_282, Page: 503, Image: 409.

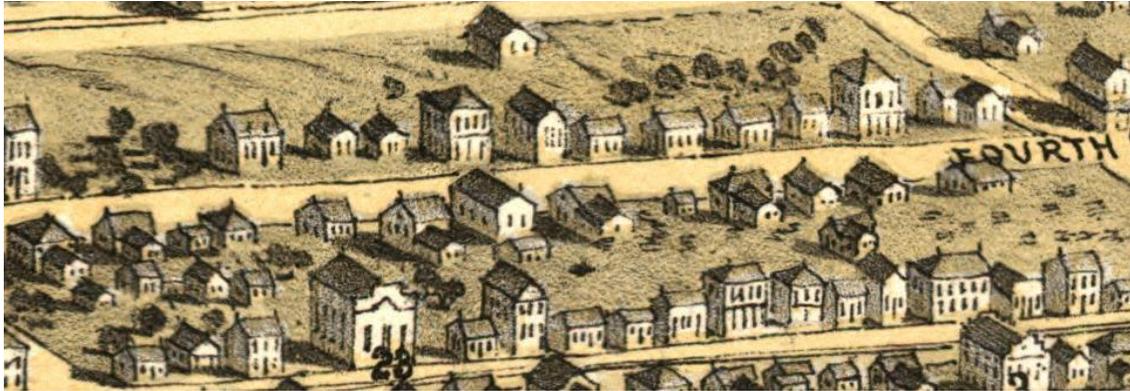
⁷² *Journal*, July 30, 1859, p. 3, cl. 1.

⁷³ *Register*, September 14, 1859, p. 3, cl. 2.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

probably living with Charles. She was a colored widow laundress residing on the east side of Fourth Street between Mason and Reynolds Streets. This was near the African Church and school. According to the 1860 Census, she was born in Virginia and was 48 years old. She owned \$600 in real estate and \$100 in personal property. Residing with her was 11 year-old Nicholas Jackson who was born in Illinois.⁷⁵

In the 1880 Census, Almira Parker is scheduled as a 70 year-old widowed black laundress who had been born in Virginia, as were her parents. She was living on Fourth Street. She was the head of the household. Living with her was her 15 year-old granddaughter, Mahila Anderson, who was attending school. Mahila was born in Alabama.⁷⁶



Drawing of Fourth Street Showing the Charles Parker Neighborhood

Sometime before the 1870 Census, Charles married Mary. The 1870 Census, lists Charles as a 32 year-old black laborer, living with his 24 year-old wife, Mary, who had been born in Mississippi. Also living with them were there two sons, John age 2 and Charles age three months.

The *1887 City Directory* shows Charles Parker residing at 316 North 13th.

Charles died on July 19, 1886, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁷⁷

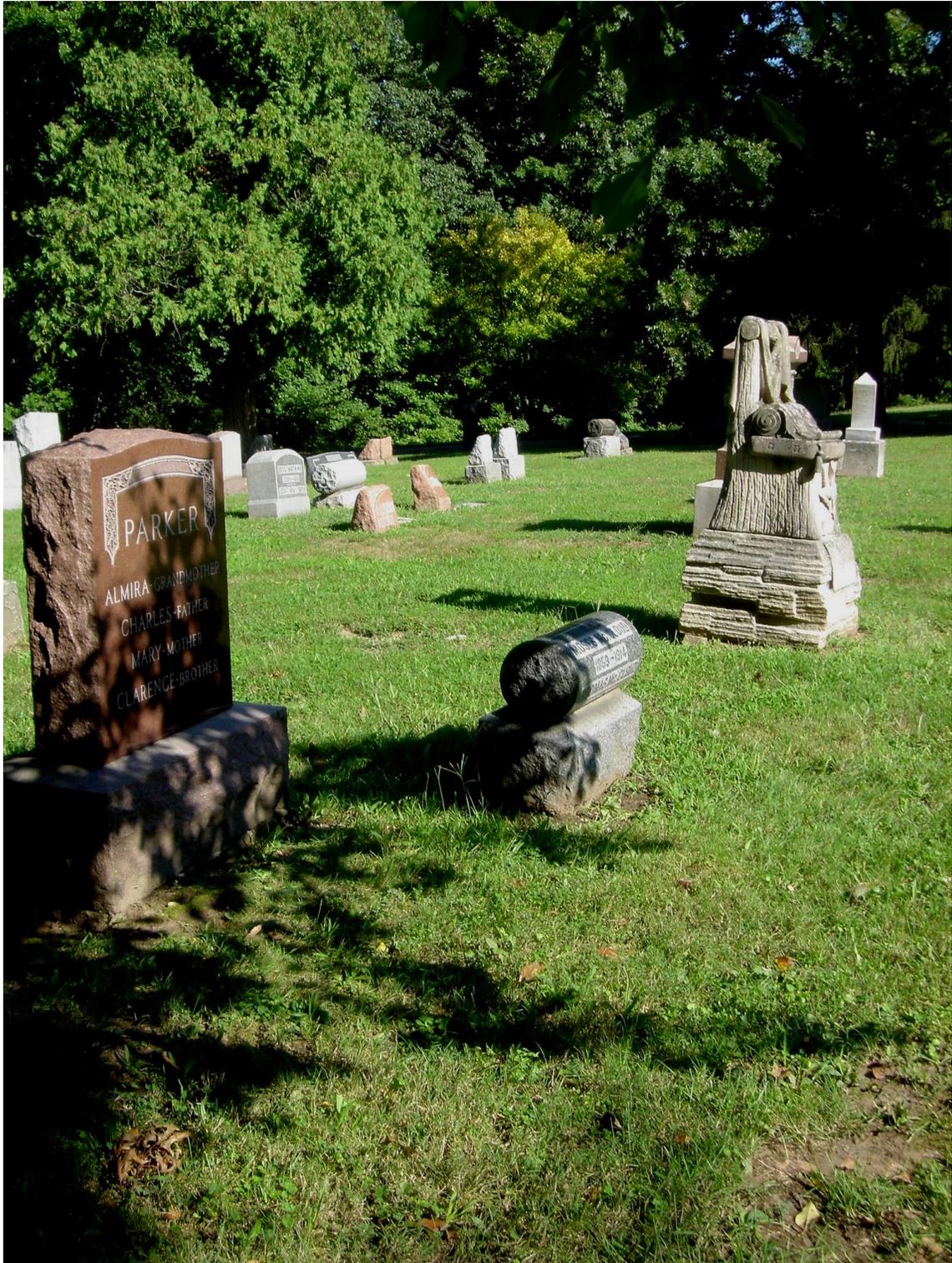
⁷⁴ 1858 Sides Map: Wooden rectangle with the broadside facing Mason, which is the width of an alley at this point. Small wooden rectangle outbuilding at northeast corner of lot. Lot 1, Block 4, Edwards' Addition.

⁷⁵ 1857-58 C.D.; 1860 C.D. 1860 census, p. 185 (Va.)(48). \$600/\$100.

⁷⁶ *1880 United State Census*.

⁷⁷ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 31 purchased by _____ on _____.

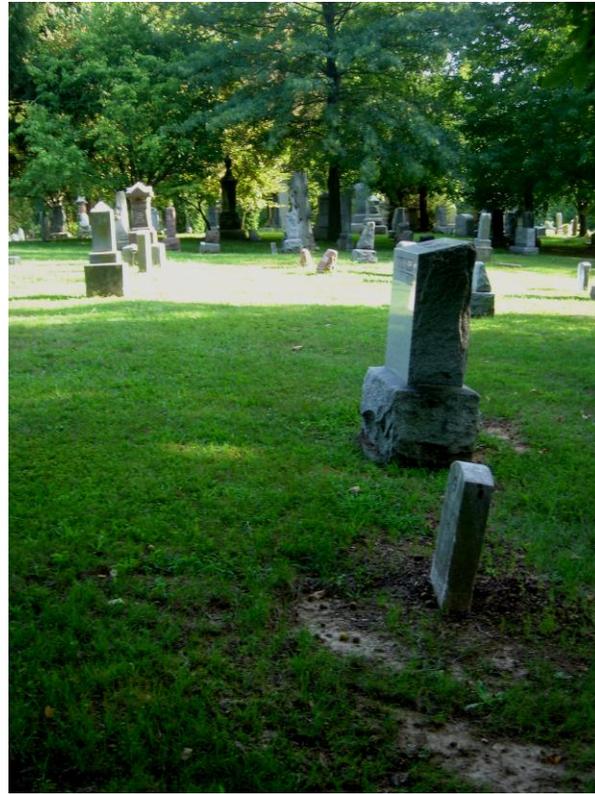
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 2 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

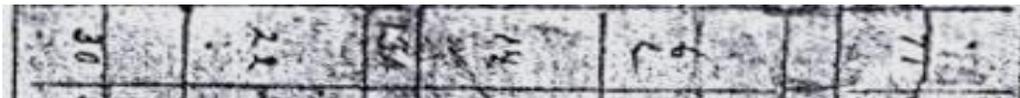
ROW 3



View of Row 3 Looking South

There are 14 stones and 17 grave marked burials in Row 3. There are 35 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 52 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

North→



- Lot 71 N ½** Louella Taylor (3.2), John W. Slaughter (3.1), Merrit Woody (3.2), and Mayme Slaughter
- Lot 71 S ½** Elmer Taborn, Hardy R. Taborn, Henry F. Taborn, John Andrew Taborn, Mary Jane Taborn
- Lot 6 N ½** Paulina Redlich, Johanna Dent (3.4), George Kyles, Junior Warsaw Dent (3.3), Bretie Smith, William Everet Smith
- Lot 6 S ½** Sydney Donagon, Henry B. Coker, Susan Coker (Donegan?) and George Donagan
- Lot 14** Lue Ella Clark, Willie Parks, Abraham Lewis, Alice Parks, Frank Peterson, Sarah Clark, Martha Parks, Albert Williams, Sampson David, Saide P. Brooks, Louisa David
- Lot 134** Bertha Croker (3.6)
- Lot 22 N ½** J. Woodford (2.9?), Ernest Woodford (2.9)(3.8), Belfield Woodford (2.9)(3.8), James Edwards, Eurette Croker
- Lot 22 S ½** Willis F. Wright, Mamie A. Wright
- Lot 30 N ½** Phoebe Florville Coleman (3.11), Joseph Florville, William L. Florville(3.10), James Clark (3.9), William John Florville (3.12) and Eva Florville (3.10)
- Lot 30 S ½** Infant of Bitterman, Salomon Frankel, Louis Hamburger, Infant of H. & L Bittermann, Alcina Duncan (3.13), Clark Duncan (3.14), Julia C. Duncan and Addie L. Duncan

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

3.1 John W. Slaughter



3.1 Grave of John W. Slaughter
Date of Death: April 6, 1950

John W. Slaughter was born in 1877. In 1926, John W. Slaughter was listed as the proprietor of Slaughter Tailor Co. and was residing at 326 North 13th.⁷⁸ John died on April 6, 1950, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁷⁹

3.2 North Side: Merritt L., Ida M. (nee Naylor) and Merritt Louella Woody



3.2 Graves of Merritt L., Ida M.(nee Naylor) and Merritt Louella Woody
Date of Death: 1877-August 20, 1908⁸⁰

Date of Death: 1874-____
Date of Death: 1906-1907

Merritt L. Woody was born in 1877. Merritt married Ida M. Naylor in Sangamon County on October 6, 1900.⁸¹ Ida was born in 1874. Merritt L. Woody died on August 20, 1908, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Ida M. (nee Naylor) died in ____ and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Merritt Louella Woody died in 1907, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁸²

⁷⁸ *Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens*, Springfield Directory Company, 1926.

⁷⁹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 71 purchased by Ida Woody on August 24, 1908.

⁸⁰ *Journal*, August 25, 1908, p. 6.

⁸¹ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 00021203 Sangamon.

⁸² *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 71 N. 1/2 purchased by Ida Woody on August 24, 1908.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

3.2 South Side: Louella Brown Taylor

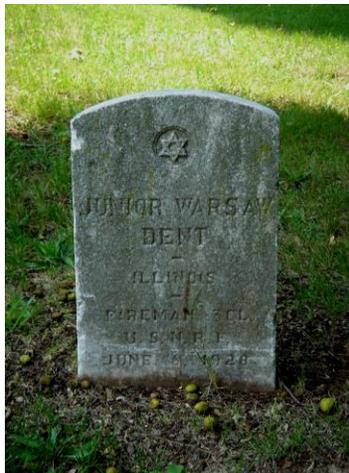


**3.2 Back: Grave of Louella Brown Taylor
Date of Death: February 13, 1888(6)**

Louella Brown was born in 1856, the daughter of _____. She married Mr. Taylor. Louella Brown Taylor died on February 13, 1888, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁸³



3.3 Junior Warsaw Dent



**3.3 Grave of Junior Warsaw Dent
Date of Death: June 6, 1928**

⁸³ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 71 N. 1/2 purchased by Ida Woody on August 24, 1908.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Junior Warsaw Dent was born on March 12, 1886. In September 1918, Junior registered with the draft board at Springfield.⁸⁴ He lived at 1301 East Capitol with his sister. He was a teamster. Junior died on June 6, 1928, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁸⁵

The image shows two pages of a 1918 draft registration card for Junior Warsaw Dent. The left page is the 'REGISTRATION CARD' and the right page is the 'REGISTRAR'S REPORT'.

REGISTRATION CARD (Left Page):

- Serial: 1021
- Name: Junior Warsaw Dent
- Address: 1301 East Capitol Springfield Sangamon Ill.
- Age: 32
- Date of Birth: March 12 1886
- Race: Colored
- Occupation: Teamster
- Signature: Junior Warsaw Dent
- Address of Next of Kin: Sarah May Mackay, 1301 E Capitol Springfield Sangamon Ill.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT (Right Page):

- Report Number: 12-6-30-A
- Description of Registrant:

Height	Build	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Color of Hair
5-10	Medium	Dark	Black	Brown	Black
- Signature: G. L. Smith
- Date of Registration: Sept 12th 1918
- Local Board for District No. 1, City of Springfield, State of Illinois.

3.4 Johanna Dent



3.4 Grave of Johanna Dent
Date of Death: July 27, 1916

Johanna _____ was born circa 1859 in Missouri. She married Mr. Dent.⁸⁶ She died on July 27, 1916, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁸⁷

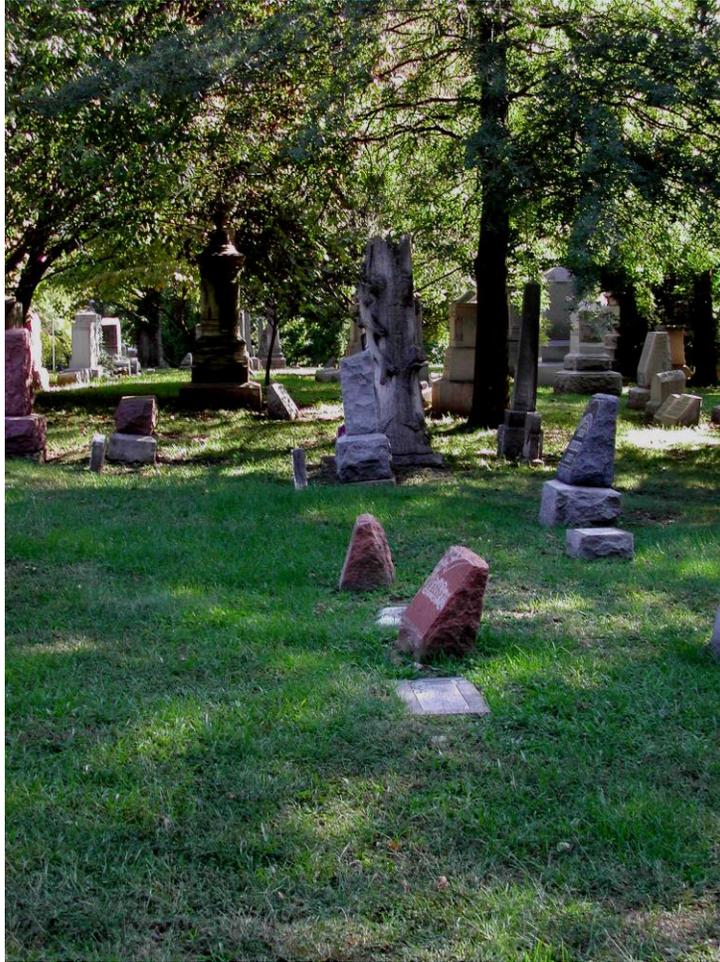
⁸⁴ Roll: 1642740, Draft Board: 1.

⁸⁵ Oak Ridge Cemetery Records, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 6 N. 1/2 purchased by _____ on _____.

⁸⁶ 1900 Census, Springfield Ward 3, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T623 343; Page: 14B; Enumeration District: 90.

⁸⁷ Oak Ridge Cemetery Records, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 6 N. 1/2 purchased by William Smith on July 28, 1916.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



3.5 Bertha Croker



3.5 Grave of Bertha Croker
Date of Death: February 20, 1967

Bertha Croker died on February 20, 1967, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁸⁸

⁸⁸ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 134 purchased by Bertha Croker on November 22, 1954.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

3.6 Father



3.6 Father

3.7 Woodford Base Stone



3.7 Woodford Base Stone

3.8 Bellfield and Ernest Woodford



3.8 Grave of Bellfield and Ernest Woodford

Bellfield Woodford was born in 1889. He died in Chicago on April 14, 1890, of convulsions. He was “removed” to Lot 22 of the Colored Section of Oak Ridge Cemetery on April 24, 1896.⁸⁹ See the West Side of 2.9.

Ernest Woodford was born in 1893. He died on April 15, 1896, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. See the West Side of 2.9.

⁸⁹ 9156 2 195 Belfield, Woodford, 11 Convulsions 5 16, Late Residence Chicago, Illinois (Colored); Removed to Lot 22 N1/2, Block 5, April 24/96

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



3.9 James W. Clark



3.9 Grave of James W. Clark
Date of Death: December 15, 1929

James W. Clark was born circa 1852 in Maryland, where his parents were also born.⁹⁰ He married Mary E. McComb on January 15, 1873, in Sangamon County, Illinois.⁹¹

The *1887 City Directory* lists James as working at 500 S. 6th. In 1900, he was a single, 48 year-old farm laborer boarding at the residence of William L. Florville. In 1910, he was still living with William Florville and he was listed as a cook. In the 1920 Census, James was listed as a 56 year-old black man living in the household of Eva M. and William Florville. He was a cook and servant.⁹² James W. Clark died on December 15, 1929, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁹³

⁹⁰ *1900 Census*, Springfield, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T623 344; Page: 12A; Enumeration District: 122.

⁹¹ *Illinois Marriages, 1851-1900*.

⁹² *1920 Census*.

⁹³ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 30 N ½ purchased by Pheby Florville Coleman on October 13, 1897.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



3.10 William LaRue and Eva N. DeCosto Florville



3.10 Grave of William LaRue and Eva N. DeCosto Florville

Date of Death: March 15, 1921⁹⁴

Date of Death: May 25, 1943⁹⁵

William LaRue Florville was born on March 10, 1840, in Springfield, the son of William and Phoebe Rountree Florville. (3.11) He married on April 9, 1861, to Mary (Nancy H.) Jenkins. (4.6) They had three children, Aquilla, Uretta and Elizabeth, and lived in Springfield.

In the 1880 Census, William LaRue Florville was listed as a 40 year-old barber living with his wife Nancy H. Jenkins Florville who was keeping house. Nancy died on February 21, 1921. (See 4.6) William L. and Nancy were divorced.

On November 11, 1886, William LaRue Florville married Eva N. DeCosto in Sangamon County.⁹⁶ Eva was born in June 1865, the daughter of John and Mary DeCosta. They had five children, Oakland L., William John, Phoebe C., Eva Irene and DeLeone Florville. The *1887 City Directory* lists William as a barber living at 118 North 11th.⁹⁷

William LaRue Florville died on March 15, 1921, at age 81, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Eva N. Decosto Florville died on May 25, 1943, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.⁹⁸

⁹⁴ *Journal*, March 15, 1921, p. 9.

⁹⁵ *Journal*, May 27, 1943, p. 14.

⁹⁶ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 006/0132.

⁹⁷ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 30 N ½ purchased by Pheby Florville Coleman on October 13, 1897.

⁹⁸ *Illinois Death Certificated* # 0000539.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



3.11 East Side: Phoebe Rountree Florville Coleman and Alcene Florville Chaverous Wright and William Richardson



3.11 East Side: Graves of Phoebe Rountree Florville Coleman, Alcene Florville Chaverous Wright and William Richardson
Date of Death: October 13, 1897
Date of Death: May 16, 1888
Date of Death: November 29, 1939⁹⁹

This monument marks the grave of Pheobe Rountree Florville Coleman who died on October 13, 1897.¹⁰⁰ It also marks the graves of various family members buried here: Alceen Florville Chaverous Wright, who died on May 16, 1888, William Richardson, who died on November 29, 1939, and Sinette Florville Richardson, who died on January 19, 1904.

Phoebe Rountree was born on February 4, 1811, near Glasgow, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Lucy Rountree, the slave of Henry Rountree. Phoebe was born into slavery as the slave of Henry Rountree and bore his last name. In August 1826, Henry Rountree freed Lucy and her eight children, including Phoebe. The Certificate of Freedom follows:

⁹⁹ *Journal*, November 30, 1939, p. 20.

¹⁰⁰ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 30 N ½ purchased by Pheby Florville Coleman on October 13, 1897.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Phoebe, Isaac, Daniel and Judah Rountree Fleurville: Certificate of Freedom-August 1826

In the Matter of the application
of Feba Fleurville (formerly Feba Rountree), Application for
Isaac Rountree, Daniel Rountree & Certificate of Freedom
Judah Rountree,

And now at this day came Feba Fleurville (formerly Feba Rountree) Isaac, Daniel & Judah Rountree, and application having been made to the Court. It is ordered, that the original certificate of freedom of said Feba, Isaac, Daniel & Judah be entered upon the records of this Court by the Clerk thereof and that he endorse a certificate on said original certificate stating the time the same was entered, and the name and description of the person producing the same and that the following evidence of their freedom be entered upon the records of this Court, and a copy thereof be granted to each of them when applied for the same. To wit: Barren County Kentucky This day I have sold Lucy to herself for twenty years work done by her to be free and eight of her children Free them and all their future increase from this day until the end of the world to wit Feba, Betsy, Isaac, Nancy, Daniel, Judah, Thomas and Sophia I do relinquish all my right and title to the above nine slaves to themselves from me my heirs and all other persons forever as witness my hand and seal this 13 day of August 1826

Henry Rountree

Witness to my hand
Bird Strange
___ Handy
___ Forbes

State of Illinois
Sangamon County

This affiant Edmund Taylor, first being duly sworn deposeseth and saith that he is acquainted with Feba Fleurville formerly Feba, Rountree, Isaac, Daniel & Judah Rountree, that he is informed and believes that the witnesses to instrument of writing herewith attached and of which the above is a true copy, reside without the jurisdiction of the Court in the State of Kentucky. That he is acquainted with Henry Rountree who executed said instrument hereunto attached and believes the writing and signature to be his handwriting from having seen him write, that he came to this State in or about the year 1829. When he rented a farm from said deponent. That he then brought with him said Feba, Isaac, Daniel & Judah, ever since which year 1829 said Feba, Isaac, Daniel & Judah have resided in this State, and have been regarded and recognized by said Henry Rountree who executed above described instrument as absolutely free, and said deponent further saith that said Feba, now the wife of William Fleurville & residing in Springfield Illinois is of a copper color about thirty two years of age, hair straight about five feet one inch and a half high, with a mole on the right side of her nose just under the eye, and said deponent further saith that said Judah Rountree also residing in Springfield, Ills is also of a copper color, about twenty two years of age, straight hair, about five feet one inch high And said deponent further saith that said Daniel Rountree residing also at Springfield, Ills is also of a copper color, about twenty-five years of age, though apparently rather younger, hair somewhat inclined to curl, well proportioned & likely, and about five feet eight inches high.

And said deponent further saith that said Isaac Rountree residing also at Springfield, Ills is also of a copper color about twenty nine years of age, straight hair, rather heavy set about five feet ten inches high & high cheek bones, and somewhat stooped when walking

Edmund Taylor¹⁰¹

Subscribed before me this 30th day of March 1843
J. Calhoun, Clerk of Sangamon Circuit Court, Ill.¹⁰²

Phoebe Rountree married William Florville on July 28, 1832,¹⁰³ soon after his arrival in Springfield in 1831.

William Florville was born about 1806, at Cape Haytien, West India. When a revolution commenced, in 1821 and 22, his god-mother took him to Baltimore, Maryland, and kept him in St. Mary's Convent until her death. William was then bound by the orphan's court to learn the trade of a barber. He then went to New Orleans, thence to St. Louis. In the fall of 1831, William and others from St. Louis went on a hunting excursion up the Mississippi, Illinois and Sangamon rivers to New Salem, then a part of Sangamon County. It was late in the evening as William

¹⁰¹ *1881 History*, p. 913.

¹⁰² *IRAD*.

¹⁰³ Florville Family Tree, Rev. 7/01, Robert J. Smith.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

approached the village of New Salem. He fell in with a tall man, wearing a red flannel shirt and carrying an axe on his shoulder, just returning from his day's labor in the woods. They fell into an easy conversation and walked to a little grocery store together. The tall man was Abraham Lincoln who soon learned that the stranger was a barber, nearly out of money and aiming to reach Springfield. That was enough to enlist the good will of Lincoln, who took William to the house where Lincoln boarded, told the people that he was a barber. That opened the way for an evening's work among the boarders. The next morning, William started on his way rejoicing, and reached Springfield the second day. Mr. Florville was soon recognized by Dr. E. H. Merriman, a Springfield physician with whom he was acquainted in Baltimore and St. Louis. Dr. Merriman helped William in various ways including William's opening a shop in Springfield, the first barber shop in the city. Mr. Florville also spent some time in the employ of Gen. James D. Henry.¹⁰⁴



William Florville

William and Phoebe Florville had five children:

1. Samuel Henry was born in Springfield, Illinois, on May 10, 1832. He lived there, attended school, and worked in his father's barber shop, until seventeen years of age, when he struck out for himself. He worked in Chicago and New York, one year; then worked at the barber's trade in Madison and Janesville, Wisconsin. In 1865, he returned to Springfield, where he had a barber shop at his father's old stand, 602 East Adams Street. He married on October 26, 1874, at Waverly, to Mary Belle Greene, who was born in 1849 in Morgan County. She died on November 23, 1875.

2. Varvell was born in 1839, in Springfield. In 1862 he went into the Union Army under Maj. Gen. McClernand, and was with him in all of his campaigns. He came home and died on October 2, 1864, and is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois.

3. William Laue. See 3.10.

4. Alseen (Alcene) was born in December, 1833, in Springfield. She married in 1851 to Mahlon Chaverous and they had two children:

Julia C. was born on April 28, 1852, and married on April 27, 1871, to Clark Duncan, who was born on October 5, 1850, near Russellville, Kentucky. They had two children, Alseen and Otis B. Julia C. and Addie.

¹⁰⁴ Power, p. 303.

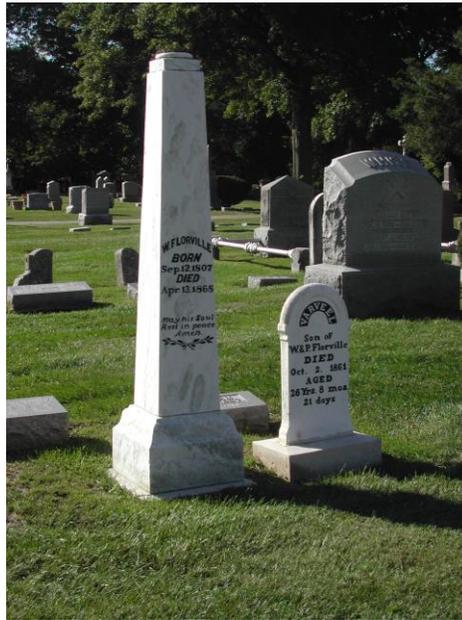
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Addie was born on December 12, 1856, in Decatur, Illinois. He married on May 13, 189, to Louis A. Jones, who was born on July 4, 1852, at Cassidy's Plantation, near Bowling Green, Barren County, Kentucky. Addie and Louis had one child, Julia M., born on July 4, 1852.

On November 26, 1863, Alcene (Aleen) Chavis (Chaverous) married Richard Wright in Sangamon County, Illinois.¹⁰⁵ They had three children, Edward, Martin and Clifford, and lived in Springfield.

5. Sinette Florville. See 3.11 North Side.

William Florville died on April 13, 1868, and was buried in Calvary Cemetery, the Catholic cemetery adjoining Oak Ridge Cemetery on the north.



Graves of William Florville and Varvell Florville, Calvary Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois
Date of Death: April 13, 1868
Date of Death: October 2, 1864

Phoebe was left a considerable property, consisting of fifteen business and tenement houses in the City of Springfield, and a farm of eighty acres in Rochester Township. Phoebe was a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, in Springfield. She resided on East Adams, between Tenth and Eleventh, where she owned a nice residence.

On May 10, 1873, Phoebe Florville married Reuben Coleman.¹⁰⁶ They lived in Springfield.

Also buried in Lot 30 N ½ without a marker was Joseph Oakland Florville, the infant son of Oakland Florville, grandson of William L. and Eva Florville, and the great grandson of William and Pheobe Florville and Flora Banche Stickley Florville. Oakland was born on August 18, 1906, and died on December 25, 1906.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁵ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 00000650

¹⁰⁶ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 004/0553.

¹⁰⁷ Rollins.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



3.11 North Side: Sinette Florville Richardson



**3.11 North Side: Grave of Sinette Florville Richardson
Date of Death: January 19, 1904**

Sinette Florville was born in September, 1837, in Springfield, the daughter of Phoebe Rountree and William Florville. She married Gilbert Johnson on August 9, 1853, in Springfield and they had three children:

Phoebe Johnson, born in 1855, married T. Adams, and they had one child, Mabel, and lived in Springfield.

Gilbert Johnson, born in February, 1857.

Annie Johnson, born in 1859.

Gilbert Johnson died in 1859, and Sinette Johnson married Henry Scott. They had one child, Eliza. Henry Scott enlisted in the Civil War, and was never heard of after.

On March 1, 1865, Sinette married Jordan Richardson in Springfield. Sineet and Jordan had 5 children: James, William, George, Thomas J. and Shelby L. Jordan Richardson was a grocer and lived in Springfield. Sinette owned a grocery store at 1305-1307 E. Capitol Ave.



The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



3.12 William John Florville



3.12 Grave of William John Florville
Date of Death: January 9, 1935¹⁰⁸

William John Florville was born on September 7, 1881, the son of William LaRue and Eva N. DeCosto Florville. He married circa 1929 to Pearl Dillon and before 1933 to Violet Thornley. The *1887 City Directory* lists William as a barber living at 118 North 11th. In 1926, he was listed as living at 2128 East Clear Lake Avenue. He died on January 9, 1935, in Springfield, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁰⁹

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A black and white portrait of William John Florville in a military uniform, wearing a campaign hat.

WILLIAM JOHN FLORVILLE

Cook, Company I, 370th Regiment, Thirty-third Division, U. S. A. Son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Florville, 1201 East Adams street, Springfield, Ill. Born September 7, 1888, in Springfield, Ill. Address, 520 North Eleventh street, Springfield, Ill. Entered service May 24, 1917, in Springfield, Ill. Received his training at Camp Logan, Houston, Tex. Discharged December 21, 1917, at Camp Logan, Tex., because of physical disability.

¹⁰⁸ *Journal*, January 9, 1935, p. 2.

¹⁰⁹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 30 N ½ purchased by Pheby Florville Coleman on October 13, 1897.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



3.13 Alcenia Florville Duncan



3.13 Grave of Alcenia Florville Duncan
Date of Death: December 28, 1895

Alcenia Florville Duncan was born on February 13, 1872, in Springfield, the daughter of Clark (3.14) and Julia C. Chaverous Duncan, the granddaughter of Alseen Florville (3.11) and Mahlon Chaverous and the great granddaughter of Phoebe Rountree (3.11) and William Florville. She graduated from High School in 1889, and taught school in Missouri from 1889 to 1893. She became ill and returned home where she died of tuberculosis on December 28, 1895, at age 23 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹¹⁰

¹¹⁰ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 30 S. ½ purchased by Mrs. Julia Duncan on December 28, 1895.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



3.14 Clark Duncan



3.14 Grave of Clark Duncan
Date of Death: April 7, 1929

Clark Duncan was born on October 5, 1850, near Russellville, Kentucky. His parents were also born in Kentucky. During the Civil War, he served in Company B, 6th United State Colored Cavalry. He mustered out as a sergeant in 1866.

Clark arrived in Springfield by 1870, and on April 27, 1871, he married Julia C. Chaverous. Julia was born on April 28, 1852, the daughter of Alseen Florville (3.11) (daughter of William and Phoebe Florville (3.11)) and Mahlon Chaverous.¹¹¹ They were married in the First African Methodist Episcopal Church, now St. Paul's.

In the 1870 Census, Clark Duncan was listed as a 22 year-old black man working at the Leland Hotel as a porter.¹¹² By 1874, Clark and Julia Duncan had moved into a home at 312 North 13th Street, where they, and most of their children, would live for 55 years until their deaths. In the 1880 census, Clark Duncan was listed as a 30 year old mulatto servant. He was married to Julia Duncan.¹¹³ In the *1887 City Directory*, he was listed as working at the Leland Hotel and residing at 312 North 13th Street.

Clark and Julia Chaverous Duncan became the parents of one son, Otis Beverly Duncan, born on November 18, 1873, in Springfield, and three daughters, Alseen or Alcenia born on February 13, 1872, (3.13) and a daughter Addie Louise, or Ada L., born in 1875 and Clara born on September 12, 1882. (2.8) Each of the daughters graduated from Springfield High School and each became a school teacher. Otis was sent to business school where he trained as a printer. He worked as a printer for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and was the publisher of a weekly colored newspaper in Springfield, *The State Capital*. During this time Otis corresponded with Frederick Douglass.

¹¹¹ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 004/0463, Sangamon.

¹¹² *1870 Census*.

¹¹³ *1880 Census*, Springfield, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T9_249; Family History Film: 1254249; Page: 72.1000; Enumeration District: 220; Image: 0433.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



Clark Duncan, Otis B. Duncan and Julia Florville Chaverous Duncan

Alcina Duncan (3.13) graduated in 1889 and left home to teach school in Missouri. After four years, she became ill and returned to her parents home in Springfield. In 1895, at age 23, she died of tuberculosis.

In 1900, Julia Duncan opened a grocery store at 812 East Washington, and a few years later daughter Addie left her teaching position to operate the store. She expanded the business by advertising, installing telephone service, and joining with a partner, Thomas R. Thompson. The new firm was known as Duncan & Thompson, Grocers.

When young physician Sheppard Anderson Ware (2.8) arrived in Springfield from Tennessee, he boarded with the Duncan family. Practicing for many years at 627 East Adams, Ware married the second Duncan daughter, Clara, in 1904. (2.8)

Otis B. Duncan was a part of the noted Illinois National Guard 8th Infantry. His regiment was mustered into Federal service during World War I as the 370th Infantry, assigned to the 93rd Division. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the new regiment, which fought at Saint Mihiel and in the Argonne. The highest-ranking African American commissioned officer in the World War I American Expeditionary Force, Otis was awarded the Croix de Guerre. After the war, his unit was again named the Eighth Infantry Regiment in the Illinois National Guard, and Governor Frank O. Lowden commissioned Otis its colonel. The American Legion Post 809, at 1800 East Capitol, is named in his honor. Otis also was an alternate delegate to the 1920 Republican National Convention from Illinois. Otis died on May 17, 1937, and was buried in Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois. All of the family members except Otis are buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery. He chose to be interred among Army comrades in Camp Butler National Cemetery.

Addie Duncan, who never married, continued the grocery business until retiring in 1924. Otis remained a bachelor, and Clara and Dr. Ware had no children, but reared two foster children.

In 1926, Clark and Julia Duncan were residing at 312 North 14th Street.¹¹⁴

¹¹⁴ *Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens*, Springfield Directory Company, 1926.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



MRS. JULIA FLORIVEL DUNCAN

Mrs. Julia Florivel Duncan is a member of one of the oldest families in the state of Illinois. She has been identified with the State Federation since its birth and has held most of its important offices. As president of the Springfield Colored Woman's Club, she introduced to the Federation, the idea of the "Mother's Chain", in order to stimulate and encourage the highest ideals of motherhood.

Mrs. Duncan is the proud mother of our gallant Col. Otis B. Duncan of the "fighting 8th" regiment.

The Julia Duncan Auxiliary of the 8th Regiment has recently been organized at Springfield, in her honor, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan celebrated their golden wedding anniversary two years ago.

Clark Duncan died on April 7, 1929, in Springfield, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹¹⁵

The Duncan's were among many of the black families affected by the 1908 Race Riot in Springfield. The following is taken from the *Sociogenesis of a Race Riot*:

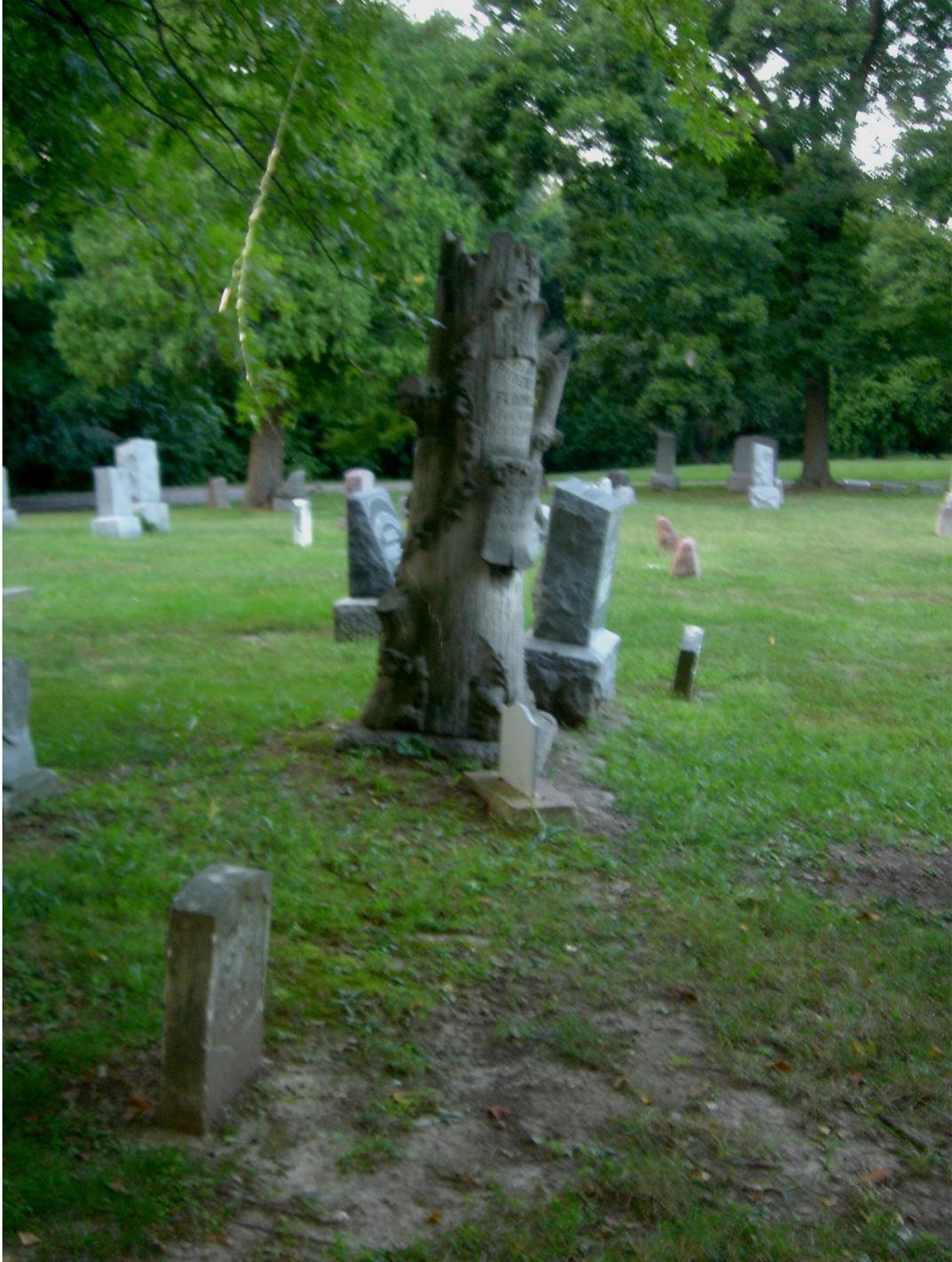
The first hit-and-run attack on a carefully selected black target occurred late in the first night's outbreak when whites fleeing the militia in the Badlands chose to sack one last black residence before retiring for the evening. Many black homes lay along the section of North Thirteenth Street through which they retreated, but the rioters targeted only one, a large two-story, wood frame house owned by the Duncans, a very prominent black family. The head of the Duncan clan, Kentucky-born Clarke Duncan, owned not only the house, but a successful grocery store as well. His son, Otis Duncan, was well known in the black community, for he held a desirable position in the state government and served as a major in the black Eighth Regiment of the state militia. Otis Duncan's sister had married one of Springfield's two black physicians. The Duncan's were counted as part of the city's small black elite and were, according to Margaret Ferguson, precisely the kind of blacks whom working-class whites resent most.

The Duncans, like many black families in the area, had evacuated their home earlier. The rioters passed up the other black homes on the street and immediately surrounded their house. After breaking windows and throwing rocks against the outside of the building, the rioters "entered the building, smashed a fine piano into kindling, they smashed furniture, fired a bullet through a large mirror on a dresser in Major Duncan's room." They also looted the place for valuables—money, a gold watch, diamond rings belonging to Mrs. Duncan—and carried off Otis Duncan's militia uniform and dress saber: "To make the looting good," reported one newspaper, "they carried away a birdcage and its occupant." Margaret Ferguson remembered other details: "There was quite a large picture on the wall of his [Otis Duncan's] mother. When the mob broke in his house, they took this saber off the wall and gouged the eyes out of his mother's picture."¹¹⁶

¹¹⁵ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 30 S ½ purchased by Mrs. Julia Duncan on December 28, 1895.

¹¹⁶ *Senchal*, pp. 137-138.

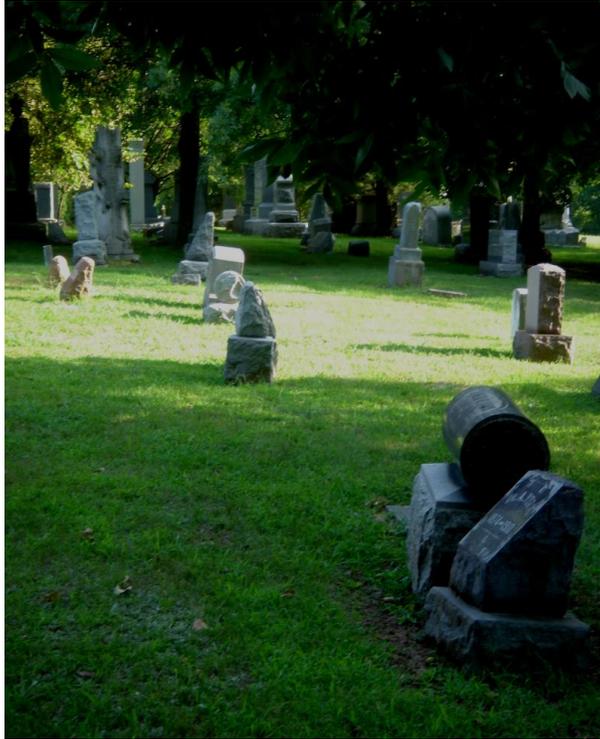
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 3 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

ROW 4



There are 11 stones and nine grave marked burials in Row 4. There are 25 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 41 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

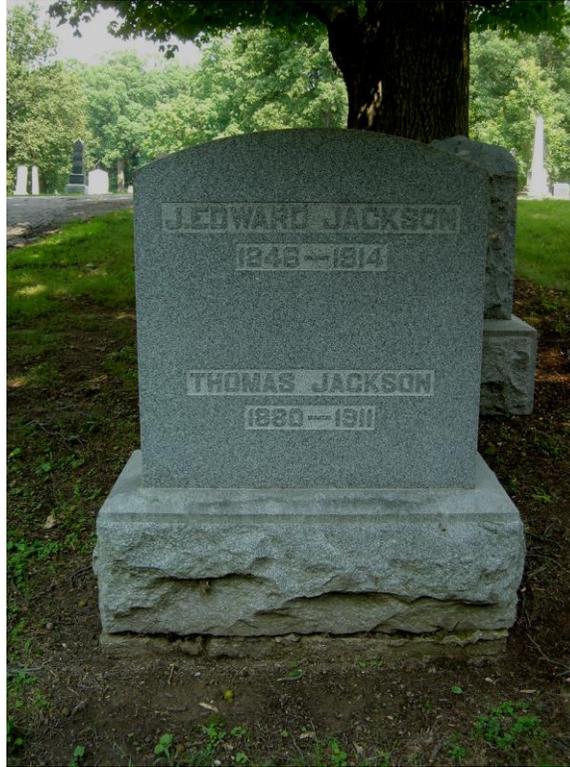
←North



- Lot 74 N ½ **Thomas Jackson (4.1), John Edward Jackson (4.1)** and Matilda Jackson
Lot 75
Lot 76 S ½ **Frederick R. York (4.3), A. V. York (4.2), Minnie York Rose (4.4)**
Lot 77 N ½ Ida Moore, A. Robinson Infant, Philip W. Moore, Lillian C. McGee Moore
Lot 77 S ½ **Hugh Eldridge (4.5), Nancy Eldridge (4.5)**
Lot 78 S ½ Annie E. Watkins, **Bell Watkins (4.7) and Nancy H. Jenkins (4.6)**
Lot 78 N ½ Albert Moten, Robert Trimbo, Thomas Jeardeau and Colene Thomas
Lot 21 H. Biddeman, Jordan Richardson, D. Florville, S. (Mrs. ?) Richardson (4.6), George Richardson, James Richardson, **Edward Curtis (4.8), Mable Curtis (4.8), Ella Boles Richardson (4.9), William Richardson (3.11)**
Lot 29 Ruhara Wright, **Addie T. Jones (4.11)**, Hoffman Infant of S., Albert DeCosta, Clifford Wright, Mrs. F. V. Rogers, Martha Wright, Wright Child of Ed, Hoffman Infant of Mrs., Wright child of Martin, **Adalaide C. Bouldin (4.10)**, and Marvelle Jones (more)

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

4.1 West Side: John Edward and Thomas Jackson



4.1 Graves of John Edward and Thomas Jackson

Date of Death: March 21, 1914

Date of Death: April 23, 1911

John Edward Jackson, called Edward, was born in Springfield, Illinois, on August 11, 1845. His father was John Jackson, an African American man who was born in Culpepper County, Virginia on July 16, 1804. Edward's mother was Matilda Foster Jackson who was born in Kentucky in 1820.¹¹⁷ John was a member of the African Baptist Church, and Matilda was a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The 1860 United States Census states that John the father was a whitewasher. The family lived on at what was then addressed as 85 S. 9th Street, between Edwards and Cook Streets. (608 South Ninth) The Jackson's were neighbors of Lincoln. The family consisted of John Edward, Henrietta, age 18, Edward, age 15, Georgeana, age 14, Josephine, age 10, and Diana Tyler, age 80 and a native of Virginia. The children listed were all born in Illinois. John the father died on November 20, 1876, and Matilda the mother died on August 26, 1880.



**Drawing of South Ninth Street, Between Edwards and Jackson Streets
Showing John Jackson's Residence**

¹¹⁷ 1881 *History*, p.737. Unpublished manuscript of William Ray Wood, 800 1/2 South Spring Street, Springfield, Illinois, undated, p. 3. (Hereinafter referred to as "William Ray Wood.")

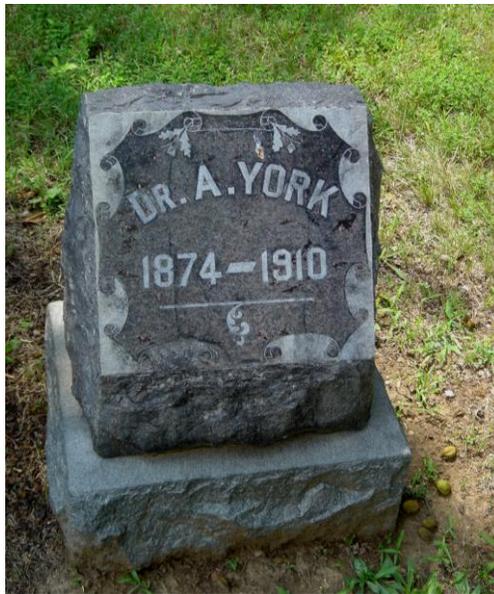
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

John “Edward” worked for different parties and attended common school until October, 1862, when he was employed as messenger boy in the Adjutant General's office until August 24, 1869. He then went to Chicago, Illinois, and was there employed on the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne and C. C. & I. C. Railroads as porter and conductor of a Pullman Palace Sleeper. He remained in this business until 1871, when the big fire in Chicago broke out, and he lost all he had in the fire and came back to his home in Springfield. In Springfield, he was employed in L. H. Coleman's carpet store, where he remained about three years. On November 13, 1875, he began to work in the Ridgely National Bank, where he was employed in 1881.

On July 9, 1874, John “Edward” Jackson married Matilda J. Wright at Springfield.¹¹⁸ Matilda, the daughter of Thomas J. Wright, born in Kentucky, and Sarah Ann Fortune Wright, was born in Huntsville, Missouri, on February 11, 1847. Thomas J. Wright was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and came to Springfield, Illinois, in 1856. Sarah Fortune Wright was born in Virginia and also a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They had three children, one living, viz: John T. C. Jackson. John “Edward” Jackson, cast his first vote for U. S. Grant for President. Edward and Matilda were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.¹¹⁹

John “Edward” Jackson died on March 21, 1914, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹²⁰ Thomas Jackson died on April 23, 1911, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

4.2 Dr. A. V. Sylvester York



4.2 Grave of Dr. A. V. Sylvester York
Date of Death: _____, 1910¹²¹

A. V. Sylvester York was born in 1874. He and his brother Frederick boarded in the Clark Duncan home. Sylvester became a dentist and left the Duncan home to practice in Chicago. In 1910, Dr. York returned from Chicago with tuberculosis. He died on _____, 1910 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Dr. Ware signed his death certificate.

¹¹⁸ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 005/0007, Sangamon.

¹¹⁹ *1881 History*, pp. 738-739.

¹²⁰ Oak Ridge Cemetery Records, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 174 purchased by J. E. Johnson on April 27, 1911.

¹²¹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 76 S. 1/2 purchased by A. York on February 24, 1908.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

4.3 Frederick R. York



4.3 Grave of Frederick R. York
Date of Death: February 22, 1908

Frederick R. York was born in 1884 in Illinois. In the 1900 Census, 16 year-old Frederick was a servant in a private home.¹²² He was a member of B. K. Bruce Lodge K. of P. Frederick R. York died on February 22, 1908, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹²³

4.4 Minnie York Rose



4.4 Grave of Minnie York Rose
Date of Death: June 13, 1964

Minnie York Rose was born in 1872. Minnie York Rose died on June 13, 1964, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹²⁴

¹²² *1900 Census*, Springfield Ward 5, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T623 343; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 97.

¹²³ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 76 S. 1/2 purchased by A. York on February 24, 1908.

¹²⁴ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 76 S. 1/2 purchased by A. York on February 24, 1908.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

4.5 Hugh and Nancy Eldridge



4.5 Graves of Hugh and Nancy Eldridge

Date of Death: September 15, 1886

Birth: 1836

Date of Death: May 2, 1910

Birth: 1845

Hugh Eldridge was born in 1836. Nancy _____ was born in 1845. Hugh and Nancy were married in _____. The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists Hugh Eldridge as a laborer residing at 1319 Capitol Avenue. Hugh Eldridge died on September 15, 1886, and Nancy died on May 2, 1910. Both were buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹²⁵

4.6 Nancy H. Jenkins Florville



4.6 Grave of Nancy H. Jenkins Florville

Date of Death: February 21, 1921

Nancy H. Jenkins, the daughter of Elizabeth Pellum and Jamieson Jenkins, (1.2) was born in Indiana in 1844(1). She was a mulatto. On April 9, 1861, Nancy married William LaRue Flourville.¹²⁶ (See 3.10) William was born on March 10, 1840, in Springfield. They had at least three children, Aquilla, Uretta and Elizabeth.¹²⁷ On February 21, 1921, Nancy H. Jenkins Florville, age 77, died and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹²⁸

¹²⁵ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 77 S. 1/2 purchased by Nancy Eldridge on September 18, 1886.

¹²⁶ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 00001245, Sangamon Co.

¹²⁷ *Power*, p. 303.

¹²⁸ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. South 1/2 of Lot 78, Block 5, purchased by Mrs. Ann E. Watkins on October 9, 1891.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

4.7 Bell and Lida Watkins



4.7 Graves of Bell and Lida Watkins Date of Death: October 8, 1891¹²⁹

Bell Watkins was born circa 1839 in Indiana. His father and mother were born in Virginia. The 1860 Census lists Bell as a 20 year old mulatto living with Jamieson Jarkins (Jenkins) on the east side of 8th, between Jackson and Edwards. In 1880, he was listed as operating a livery stable. His obituary states that he was a member of the firm of McWherter & Watkins, horse buyers. He was married to “Lyda” or “Lida.”¹³⁰ Bell died on October 8, 1891, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹³¹ Lida was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.



4.8 Edward and Mabel Curtis



4.8 Graves of Edward and Mabel Curtis Date of Death: September 22, 1937 Date of Death: September 3, 1953

Mabel Adams Curtis was born in Illinois in 1875, likely the daughter of T. Adams and Phoebe Johnson, granddaughter of Gilbert and Sinette Florville Johnson (3.11) and great granddaughter of William and Phoebe Florville. (3.11) Sinette purchased this grave site. Mabel Curtis died on September 3, 1953, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹³² Edward Curtis was born in 1868, and died on September 22, 1937. He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

¹²⁹ *Journal*, October 9, 1891, p. 5.

¹³⁰ *1880 Census*, Springfield, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T9_249; Family History Film: 1254249; page: 188.1000; Enumeration District: 227; Image: 0665.

¹³¹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. South ½ of Lot 78, Block 5, purchased by Mrs. Ann E. Watkins on October 9, 1891.

¹³² *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 21 purchased by Sinette Florville Richards on January 4, 1886.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



4.9 Thomas J. and Ella Bales Richardson



4.9 Grave of Thomas J. and Ella Bales Richardson

Date of Death: March __, 1971
Date of Death: September 20, 1930

Thomas J. Richardson was born on December 15, 1873, in Springfield, the son of Sinette Florville Richardson, (3.11) who was born in Illinois, and Jordan Richardson, who was born in Alabama, and the grandson of William and Phoebe Rountree Florville. (3.11) On March 21, 1897, Thomas married Ella Bo(a)les in Sangamon County.¹³³ Ella was born in Mississippi in 1876. Thomas and Ella had four daughters, Ada, born in 1898, Julia M., born in 1899, Hermenia Sinette, born in 1906, Edith L., born in 1897, and a son, Shelby, who was born about 1902.

For 57 years, Thomas was a commission produce merchant in Springfield.¹³⁴ In 1900, the family lived at 825 South 15th, Springfield, Illinois. In 1910, the family was living at 1515 East Capitol Ave, Springfield Ward 6, Sangamon, Illinois.

¹³³ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 007/0137.

¹³⁴ Attorney--Jack Fixmer. 1946 Social Security Number was 332-01-1451. SSN issued in Illinois. 1930 Census living with sister Edythe Hardy--listed as Widower. Roll: 1642740, DraftBoard: 1, Source Citation: Registration Location: Sangamon County, Illinois; Roll: 1642740; Mattie Boles or Bales--Boarder in 1900 Census--School Teacher.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Page 4 Illinois State Register, Springfield, Thursday, December 15, 1966

Lincoln's Barber's 'Little Shaver' Is 93 Years Old

By George Derrig

"The Quality Man" is 93 years old today, and enjoying every minute of the observance, including a chicken dinner and a big cake.

For newcomers to Springfield, he is Thomas J. Richardson of 1515 E. Capitol Ave., the hale and hearty grandson of William de Fleurville, who was Lincoln's barber.

Richardson earned his nickname because of his integrity during 57 years in the produce business, most of them as commission merchant.

"Truth and honest," he said briskly today, "that's how I held on so long."

Regular hours haven't hurt either, he indicated, quoting the adage, "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man a healthy, wealthy and wise."

He retired 20 years ago, but still keeps busy collecting rents, keeping records and playing with the tame squirrels that live in his backyard.

Like his grandfather, whose industriousness the Illinois State Register praised in a poem on Sept. 3, 1941, Richardson has been wide awake when it came to making a dollar.

His family no longer owns the property on the north side of Washington Street between 8th and 9th Streets, or other properties about the Old State House Square — including the Bank location.

Richardson still does own, however, about six other properties, including the house in which he was born and still lives, according to Jack Finmer, who has been Richardson's attorney for 25 years.

But because of the old gentleman's keenness of mind, Finmer said his services in recent years have been limited to taking care of Richardson's income tax returns. "But the old fellow still prepares the details meticulously," Finmer said. "All I have to do is send out the details of his chronological statement."

This keen mind was most evident during a birthday interview, as Richardson, with pride told about his family's

than a half century as an independent commission merchant.

Keeping step with progress, Richardson transferred his operations from team and wagon to a truck, which was a familiar sight in Springfield through the early 1940's.

Among his early customers was the first Candler market and the Franzen & Franzen store.

Richardson married twice, the last time when he was about 70. He was widowed both times.

Among his treasured mementoes is a pair of shoes given his first bride by her brother, a shoemaker. A fine, handworked shoes of soft leather, they looked "too manish" for her. She offered them to him in exchange for a "new pair of lady's shoes."

He still wears the 70-year old footgear in warm weather.

Another is a white silk handkerchief with a purple border, given him about 70 years ago by "Mr. Hall, when he returned from a trip."

A third is a pair of 40-year-old kid gloves, he once wore on formal occasions.

One of the most precious to him is a photograph of Grandfather de Fleurville, known as "Billy Barber," in its original oval solid walnut frame.

A companion photograph of Lincoln "just seems to have gotten away," he said wistfully. So he has the long mirror before which Richardson's grandfather shaved Lincoln.

But he has memories which can't be taken away. Among these are the old Carrier Mission, built by Jack Priest on the present location of the Boy's Club on 16th Street, and of Priest's blue roamed mules singing out in the back pasture.

A deeply religious man, Richardson belongs to Sacred Heart parish, but restricts his devotions to prayers three

times a day at home. He doesn't stray from his yard these days because, "time is catching up with me," he said pointing to his body.

"I'm not getting rusty up here," he said, "directing his right index finger, to his temple."

His library, the news media and his friends keep him abreast of culture and current events.

One of his most remarkable traits is Richardson's ability to recall vividly to emphasize a point, or to answer a question to which he doesn't care to venture a direct opinion.

He has three daughters, Mrs. Harrison Smith and Mrs. Mary H. Green of Springfield; Mrs. Elythe Webster of Chicago, and one son, Shelby Richardson of Ann Arbor, Mich. His son is ill and unable to attend his father's 93rd birthday celebration. The daughter will be here for a weekend party at a granddaughter's home.

Today's observance is a special private occasion, prepared by Mrs. Smith.

Richardson has eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

When he's in the mood, he regales them with tales of the past, especially those concerning the great friendship between his grandfather and Mr. Lincoln; Grandfather de Fleurville's assistance in establishing the Catholic Church here, the first Mass was said in his home at 6th and Adams Streets — and de Fleurville's personal interest in religion by contributing substantially to the construction of the original First Christian Church — as well as his early days as a produce commission merchant.

What do his children and friends say today?

"He has justified his heritage. Happy Birthday!"



Thomas J. Richardson

Connection with Springfield. In detail, he graphically returned the city to the days of dirt streets, horse drawn transportation and the iron picket fence about the city square.

These were the days, "when eggs were eight cents a dozen and a chicken cost a quarter," Richardson said. "That was when I came along."

His early memories include shoeing mules with the late Register editor, V. Y. Dallman, at the original Lincoln Elementary School.

Dallman went on with his education and into the newspaper business, but Richardson had to help support his widowed mother who operated a grocery store at 1305-1307 E. Capitol Ave., which property he still owns.

He worked for Hall & Stirtz, first packing apples in barrels for \$1 a day. Then, with his own horse and wagon, he sold apples at \$1.50 a barrel on commission for T. B. Hall. The latter one day introduced him to John Gillard, another produce merchant, for whom Richardson worked for more

4.10 Adalaide C. Bouldin



4.10 Grave of Adalaide C. Bouldin
Date of Death: October 21, 1908

Adalaide C. Bouldin was born on July __, 1900. __ of Julia Ellis. She died on October 21, 1908, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



4.11 Addie Chaverous Jones



4.11 Grave of Addie Chaverous Jones
Date of Death: May 11, 1884

Addie Chaverous Jones was born on December 12, 1856, in Decatur, Illinois, the daughter of Alseen Florville and Mahlon Chaverous, and the granddaughter of William and Phoebe Florville. (3.11) She died May 29, 1879.

She was married to Lewis (Louis A.) Jones who in the 1880 census is listed as a 28 year-old mullato working as a janitor at the State House. Louis A. Jones, was born on Cassidy's Plantation, near Bowling Green, the county seat of Barren County, Kentucky, on July 4, 1852. His father John was also born in Kentucky and was a farmer, and died in the fall of 1859. Lewis' mother, Nancy T. Cassidy, was born in Kentucky.

When six years of age, Lewis was sold and taken with his mother, Nancy, to Oakalona, Mississippi. Two years later he freed and he began to work for Captain Conover. At the close of the Civil War, Lewis went with Captain Conover to Cass County, Illinois. He remained there three years, and then moved to Livingston County for one year. He then went to Springfield, Illinois, and worked one year for J. B. Spaulding in a nursery at Riverton. He then for one summer laid track on the Wabash Railroad from Jacksonville, Illinois, to Alexander, Illinois. He then was messenger boy three years for Charles Matheny, Sr. and then "worked as messenger boy for R F. Ruth, two' years. On March 2, 1877, he began to work as messenger boy, and worked for him two years and two months. He then kept a provision store on Monroe, between Fourth and Fifth streets, eighteen months, when he was employed as a janitor in the office of Railroad and Warehouse Commission.¹³⁵ Lewis. Jones is a Mason, and a member of Blue Lodge, No.3, at Springfield, Illinois. Addie, his wife, was a member of Shiloh Court, No.1 and Eastern Star Chapter, No. 2.

Addie and Lewis had one child, Julia, who was born on February 28, 1879.¹³⁶

Addie Jones died on May 11, 1884, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

¹³⁵ *1881 History*, pp. 742-743.

¹³⁶ *1880 Census*, 353, 366.

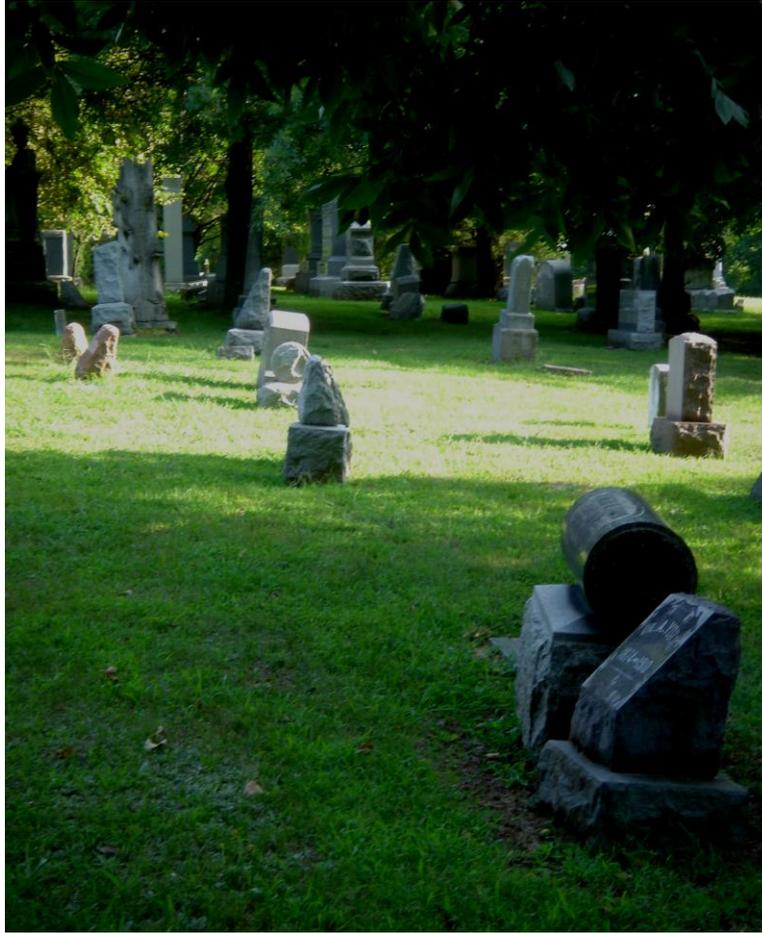
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 4 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

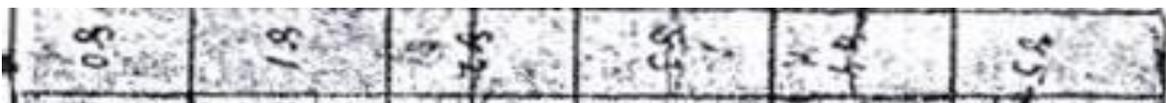
ROW 5



View of Row 5 Looking South

There are seven stones and 14 grave marked burials in Row 5. There are 14 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 28 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

North→



- Lot 85** Minnie Douglas (5.1), Fred Douglas, Mary Douglas, Joseph Douglas (5.1), Richard Douglas, John Douglas
- Lot 84** N ½ Edward Johnson, Katherine Johnson and Florence J. Thompson
- Lot 83** S ½ William Donegan, William H. Donegan (5.2), Robert Peulshook, Sarah Ann Donegan (5.2)
- Lot 82** N ½ Charles Davis (5.4), Helen Mable Davis (5.4) and Harriett Davis
- Lot 81** Pheobe Dions (5.7) and Mary A. Edwards (5.7), Charles H. Williams (5.7), William Todd (5.7), and Lucy Anna Williams (5.7)
- Lot 80** Sarilda Chapous, Emma Carroll, John E. Rollins (6.7), W. L. Broady, Jr., Lewis Burton Baborn, Jr., Mary E. Rollins (6.7), Jessie M. Rollins (6.7)

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Row 5

5.1 Minnie and Joseph Douglas



**5.1 North Side: Grave of Minnie and Joseph Douglas
Date of Death: July 20, 1903
Date of Death: ____, 1910**

Minnie ____ was born in 1876. She married Joseph Douglas, who was born circa 1875, in Illinois. Minnie died on July 20, 1903. Joseph died in 1910. Both were buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

5.2 William K. and Sarah Ann Donnegan



5.2 Grave of William K. and Sarah Ann Donnegan

Date of Death: August 16, 1908

Date of Death: April 26, 1931

William K. Donnegan was born in Kentucky about 1832, and came to Springfield in 1845. In 1857, he built a house on the north side of Jefferson Street, between 8th and 9th Streets (53 Jefferson¹³⁷), just five blocks north of the Lincoln Home. Donnegan was a shoe maker with his shop on the north side of Adams Street, between Seventh Street and the Public Square, just a block east of the Lincoln & Herndon law offices. The builder, B. S. Mauxy, charged \$450.¹³⁸ He also imported black laborers from the South.



William K. Donnegan

In 1860, William was living in the Jefferson Street house, the present site of a Horace Mann parking lot. William was a 28 year-old shoe maker with a shoe shop on the north side of Adams, between 7th and the Public Square. He owned real estate worth \$900 and personal property worth \$100.

Living with him was Levina, a 19 year old African American who had been born in Missouri, and Thomas, a six year-old African American who was born in Illinois. Also living with William were Jesse Ayerse, a 15 year old colored person who had been born in Kentucky, 60 year-old Mrs. Leona Knox, who was born in Illinois, and 19 year-old John who was born in Illinois and was a bill poster.¹³⁹

The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists William K. H. Donnegan as residing at 111 West Edwards.

¹³⁷ *1863 C.D.*: 53 Jefferson.

¹³⁸ *1857 Improvements*, p. 6.

¹³⁹ *1860 census*, p. 191

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

William K. Donnegan: Conductor on the Underground Railroad in Springfield

Recently, Curtis Mann, Manager of the Sangamon Valley Room at Springfield's Lincoln Library, discovered a William K. Donnegan reminiscence published in the Old Settlers Department of the May 1898 edition of Springfield's *The Public Patron*.¹⁴⁰ Donnegan's reminiscence deserves an unedited and complete publication. It follows:

Most old people will remember, and many young ones have read in their school histories about the celebrated "Underground Railways" established throughout the Northern States in the old slavery days, before the civil war. If all of the thrilling events incident to the escapes, and attempted escapes of runaways were written out they would form a volume as intensely interesting and dramatic as any of the "blood and thunder" novels of any age or authorship.

Springfield was by no means wanting in such events, and we give the following story as a sample. It comes from a well-known colored citizen of Springfield, himself and brothers free-born, and bent on freeing others, as can well be guessed from the narrative that follows. The story will be given as nearly as possible exactly as he relates it.

"I lived, in those days, on the north side of Jefferson, between Eighth and Ninth streets, in a story and a half house. It is still standing, and I could show you the garret yet in which many a runaway has been hidden while the town was being searched. I have secreted scores of them, I once had seven hundred dollars in gold and silver turned into my lap by the owner of a slave as a bribe for my assisting in his recapture. This took place in my shoe shop on Fourth street. The house is not now standing. Well, could not capture the fellow, and had to return the money; but all the same he was under a pile of leather in that very room when the money was paid.

"One early morning in the summer or spring of 1858, I think it was, George Burreas, a barber and a near neighbor of mine, came into my shop somewhat excited and wanted me to go home at once. He said that during the night a wagon had driven up to his house and hurriedly unloaded a runaway slave girl, the driver getting away as quickly as possible, explaining that they had been hotly pursued from Jacksonville, and that their pursuers could not be far away then. He also hurriedly explained that the girl must be concealed carefully and quickly as she was a dangerous character, being hard to manage. What was especially dangerous was that she had an excellent memory and could tell the name of every man, woman and baby along the route. She had come from St. Louis to Springfield. She was liable to give all of them away to authorities by her imprudence. You must recollect that we didn't know another's names. It was best not. When a man unloaded one or more Negroes at my house or at any other station in the night (it was always done then) his name was not asked. But this girl had caught the names and would tell them. So George said I must take her and hide her.

"I went home at once and found a girl about sixteen years of age and weighing about one hundred and forty pounds. This man Burreas, you understand, lived right by me, and the girl has been left there by mistake in the excitement. I said, "See here, gal, they say that you're in danger of giving us all away, and if you don't do as I tell you, or if you threaten to get us into trouble, I'll shoot you. She replied that she hoped I'd shoot here if she was about to be recaptured. She said that a brother and a sister of hers had been caught again and burned. She was in earnest, too; but smart as she was, she was a fool. She had no judgment; she wanted to see everything. I sent her into the back part of the house and told her to keep out of sight. I stayed around, and in about an hour I saw three men – one red-headed – coming down the street. As they approached, the girl peeped out of a window and exclaimed, "O, that's my young master and his father." I told to go quick the back way to Burreas' house. She had hardly got out of sight when in came the three inquiring for a wash woman who lived there. I told them there was none there – they must be mistaken in the place. They seemed disappointed, and came on into the kitchen. Finding nobody, and having no excuse, they reluctantly went out again at the front door.

"I knew they'd go to Burreas', and as soon as they left the door I manage to slip back by the back way and come into the kitchen. So, as they entered the house, she left and came into mine. I hustled her into the attic, and told her to go away back and crawl in behind the chimney and stay there till I told her to come out. Well, the men came back and fooled around awhile and left disappointed.

"Now what was to be done was a question. I knew the house would be watched all night. I heard in the afternoon that about thirty men had been engaged about town for that night. A full description of her had been given in the Springfield Register as she looked when she ran away, with an offer of, I think, \$500 for her capture. I knew she was a dangerous girl to keep about the place and finally hit on an expedient. Another girl, almost white, lived near named Hal, who was just about this girl's size and form, but this runaway was quite black. I went down town and got a pair of white gloves and a white false face, which I knew in the darkness would give the impression of whiteness. I told her what to call me, and what to talk about and instructed her to alter her voice, so that if her master heard he would not know her. I knew that the dog-fennel all around between me and Ninth street would probably be full of men watching who came to or left my house after night.

¹⁴⁰ *The Public Patron*, May 1898, p.3.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

When it was dark enough I sallied out with her, talking to Hal loud enough to be heard, and she talking to me about things that happened days before. We started east, I intending to get her into a house in the east of town for awhile. We hadn't got far when three men passed us, one of whom I recognized as a Springfield man named Emmet. Immediately after passing they had stopped and were holding a consultation. I heard a man say:

"She moves exactly like my girl."

"No," said another, "this one's white."

"Well, I believe we ought to get her away – I believe it's the girl I'm after," was the reply.

I heard Emmet say, "You'd better be careful not to make a mistake. He carries bowie knife and a shooter that will kill at 150 yards, and he's the kind that uses them."

"Well, I won't risk my life for any nigger," was the reply.

They kept at a distance, but still knew where we went. I couldn't get the girl taken in at the house to which we went, so thought I'd take her up to the timber near the Converse school, hoping to escape pursuit there. I went directly north on Ninth street, but they blocked my game, outflanked me and got there ahead. I began to think it was dangerous to get into the woods with those three against me, so I turned down the C & A track and went over to Third street, and back towards town. The men still followed. Near Carpenter street a bulldog broke his chain and attacked us, catching hold of the girl's skirts. She screamed. I told her to be still, and placing my revolver to the dog's head I fired, splattering its brains over my hands. Then I turned to the men who were crowding still closer and shouted that I would kill any four-legged or two-legged dogs that bothered me much more. At this they fell back somewhat. I was going down Fourth street by this time, towards a Methodist church that stood there then, and in which there was a meeting that night. It all at once occurred that I might make this useful. I went to a man at the door and told him I was being followed, and asked him in a few moments to open the door widely and close it again, while we slipped around the building and out of sight. I thought the men would think we went in and while they were looking we might escape. And sure enough, that worked! They stopped, and while they were finding out that we were not in the house we doubled on our track as fast as possible, crossed the C & A going west, jumped over a fence and made away for the woods and down where the present O & M track is, towards the old West Shaft. I was aiming to get to a Mr. Gardner's or Lyman's, one of our stations near the Beardstown road, west of Bradfordton. As I drew near the bridge over the creek west of the city I thought I'd better be cautious, as it might be guarded. So, going off a few rods from the road, I made the girl climb up into the fork of a red-bud tree to wait until I went forward to look for enemies. The woods were full of wild hogs and cows, the latter being quite fierce when they had calves as many of them had, so I told her she must not come down till I came back. Some little distance from the bridge a dog growled at my side. I gave it some meat – I always carried a lunch on such occasions – and soon quieted it. Going cautiously forward I found the bridge at the old mill guarded by a dozen with guns. I came back to where the girl was. She said she was afraid and must come down, and in fact did climb down. I made her get up, and again left her, going this time up to the bridge on the Beardstown road. It was guarded. I tried to find a place to cross but could not as the stream was full, so I went back again to where I left the girl. It was now getting on towards daylight. Presently I heard the clatter of horses' feet and the whole company swept by on horses toward town. They had left for the night. But it was too late for us to go on; daylight would catch us before we could get half way to our destination. I says to the girl, "Get down now, and follow me quick." And we came into town right behind our pursuers. I went straight for my brother's house on Carpenter street, and called him up. He said:

"You'd better get in here quick. My house has been watched all nigh, and I think they just left."

"So we hustled in, and began to plan how to get the girl out of the city. My brother said that John Stewart was going to take a gang of colored men out to the neighborhood of Lyman's to go plowing."

"That's all right," I said. "now, let us get her up a boy's rig and send her out with them as a boy. None but Stewart need know, and he can tell Lyman all about her." So we rigged her out and sent her to the country in that way in daylight."

"One of our men down near St. Louis that helped run slaves off got shot about this time, and broke our line for nearly six weeks, during which time she remained at Lyman's. Finally he sent word that something must be done. She couldn't be restrained from showing herself, and they were in terror lest she give the whole underground railroad gang away. I sent word to Mrs. Lyman to tell the girl I was going to shoot her. And I did go and hunted the house over for her, shot my pistol off a few times and scared her nearly to death. Of course I couldn't find her, but she was so frightened that when she was told to go into the basement and remain hid she did so.

"After some time we succeeded in getting her out of the country, off towards Canada."

"Oh," said our informant, after relating the above, "I could give you a whole lot of such scrapes. But I'll never forget the night I spent in trying to get that girl away."¹⁴¹

¹⁴¹ *The Public Patron*, May 1898 p.3, Old Settlers Department.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

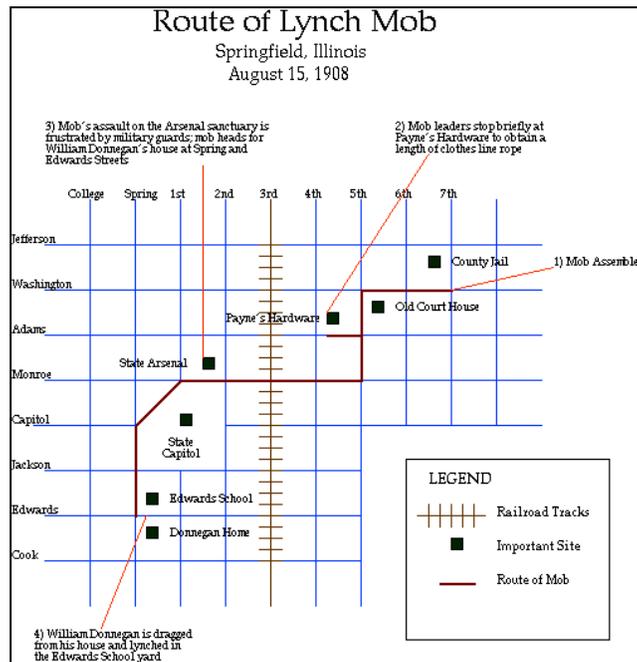
William K. Donnegan: Murdered in Springfield Race Riot of 1908

William K. Donnegan was killed in the Springfield Race Riot of 1908.¹⁴²

Provoked by a false accusation from a young white woman that she had been raped by a black man, white citizens of Springfield, Illinois gathered on Friday, August 14, 1908 at the county jail. When they learned that the sheriff had secretly removed two black prisoners accused of raping white women, the crowd went on a rampage. They set fire to the black business district, shot and killed Scott Burton, a black barber shop owner, burned his shop and paraded his body from his porch to a tree several blocks away where it was hanged. A group of women and young boys even stopped to pose for a camera in front of a tree where Burton was killed.

The mob moved to the black residential area of Springfield, where rioters set fire to the black homes and black families fled for safety. In a move ironically reminiscent of the Biblical Passover where Hebrews marked their dwellings with lamb's blood so that God could identify and pass over them, white residents placed white sheets and handkerchiefs outside their homes to warn the mob not to burn their houses. By the time firefighters arrived, the white crowd estimated at 12,000 people had grown so unruly that they cut the firehoses to prevent the rescue effort.

Another mob gathered the following evening and attempted to enter the State Arsenal where displaced blacks were being housed. After being stopped by the militia guard, the angry group headed for the home of William Donnegan, a wealthy 84-year-old black cobbler married to a white woman. The white citizens cut his throat, dragged his body across the street, and lynched him in a local school yard. By the end of the weekend, seven people had been killed, 40 homes destroyed, 24 businesses forced to close, and more than \$200,000 worth of property damaged. Although a grand jury made 107 indictments, only one person was ever convicted -- for stealing a saber from a guard -- and no one was convicted for the murders of the two black men.

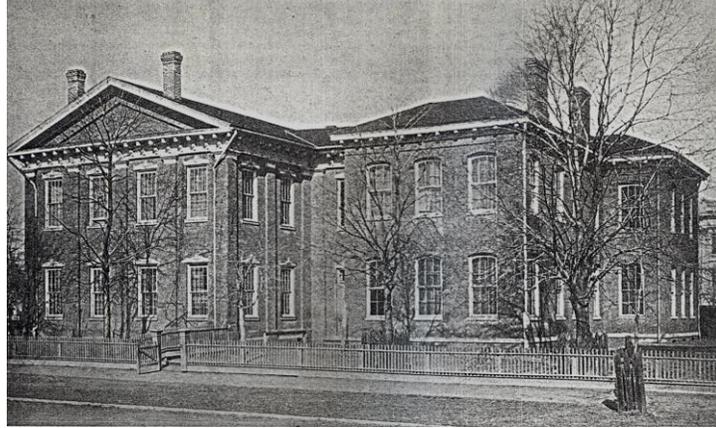


... the peace ended on Saturday evening. A mob gathered once again at the Old Court House Building and then began to move in the direction of the State Arsenal Building. A small group attempted to enter the State Arsenal where displaced blacks were being housed. The group was stopped by a militia guard, but the mob merely changed direction and proceeded to march across the capitol grounds and headed for the home of William Donnegan. He was an elderly long time resident of Springfield. Donnegan was eighty-

¹⁴² *The Sociogenesis of a Race Riot*, Springfield, Illinois in 1908, Roberta Senechal, University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago, 1990, pp. 43-46, 96, 99, 131, 136, 138-39, 169-71, and 174.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

four years old and a cobbler by trade; a respected resident of the community who owned his own home outside the Badlands and also owned some adjacent properties which were occupied by members of his family. He was known to be a friend and the cobbler of Abraham Lincoln. Donnegan made a small fortune bringing southern blacks to Springfield to find jobs. He had never been accused of a crime. He had however, broken the unwritten mores of being married to a white woman for the last thirty-two years. The mob approached Donnegan's home. When he came out to find what they were up to, they grabbed him, cut his throat, dragged his body across the street, and lynched him in the Edwards School yard. He was still alive when the national guard cut him down, but he died early the next morning. This lynching was the last mob action of the riot.¹⁴³



Photograph of Edwards School at the Northeast Corner of Spring and Edwards

5.3 Arthur (Wright?) Stone

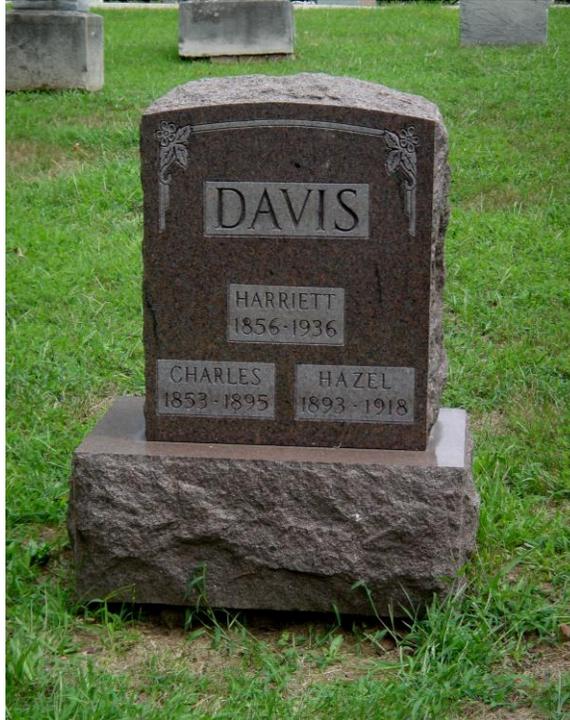


5.3 Arthur Wright Stone

¹⁴³ <http://library.thinkquest.org/2986/Killed.html>.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

5.4 Harriett, Charles and Hazel Helen Mable Davis



5.4 Graves of Harriett, Charles and Hazel Helen Mable Davis

Date of Death: June 18, 1936

Date of Death: November 21, 1895

Date of Death: April 2, 1918

Charles Davis was born circa 1853. Harriett ____ was born circa 1856. Charles and Harriett were married in _____. The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists Charles Davis as working at Robinson's and boarding at 1111 Mason Street.¹⁴⁴

Harriett Davis died on June 18, 1936, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Charles Davis died on November 21, 1895, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Hazel Helen Mable Davis, born in 1893, died on April 2, 1918, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

¹⁴⁴ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 62 N 1/2 purchased by Mrs. Charles Davis on November 12, 1895.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



5.5 Moses Smith

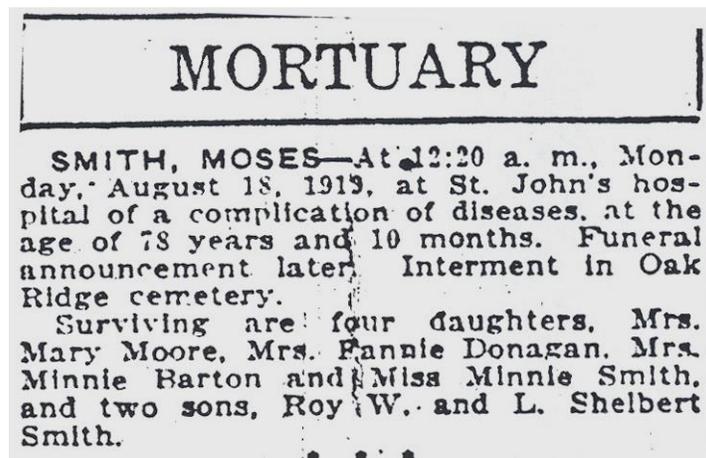


5.5 Grave of Moses Smith
Date of Death: August 18, 1919

Moses Smith was born circa 1841. During the Civil War, he served in Company L, 12th United States Colored Artillery.

The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists Moses Smith as a laborer residing at 1025 South 3rd Street. Moses was the father of four daughters: Mary Smith Moore, Fannie Smith Donnegan, Minnie Smith Barton and Minnie Smith. He was also the father of two sons, Roy W. and L. Shelbert Smith.

Moses died on August 18, 1919, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁴⁵ This stone faces west.



Obituary of Moses Smith

¹⁴⁵ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 82 S. 1/2 purchased by P. W. Moore on May 1, 1912.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

5.6 Base Stone



5.6 Base Stone

5.7 East Side: Phoebe Dions



5.7 East Side: Grave of Phoebe Dions
Date of Death: January 2, 1892

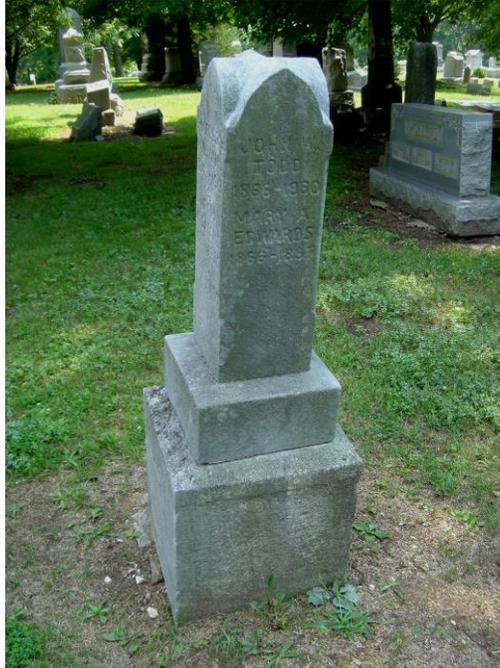
Phoebe _____ was born in Alabama circa 1820. In the 1870 Census, Phoebe was listed as a 50 year-old black living in Rochester.¹⁴⁶ She married S. Dions. Phoebe died on January 2, 1892, at age 82 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁶ *1870 Census*, Roll: M593_281, page: 286 , image: 574

¹⁴⁷ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 81 purchased by Annie Williams and James Edwards on July 13, 1897.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

5.7 North Side: John W. Todd and Mary A. Edwards



**5.7 North Side: Graves of John W. Todd and Mary A. Edwards
Date of Death: July 20, 1930
Date of Death: July 12, 1897**

John W. Todd was born in 1866. He died on July 20, 1930, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Mary A. Edwards died on July 12, 1897, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁴⁸



¹⁴⁸ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 81 purchased by Annie and James Edwards Williams on July 13, 1897.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

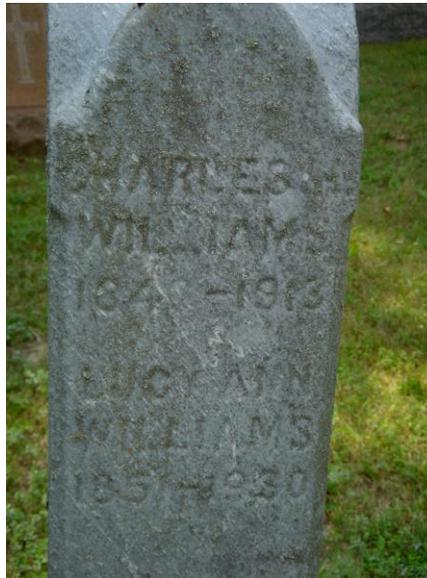
5.7 West Side: Charles and Lucy Ann Shields Williams



5.7 West Side: Graves of Charles and Lucy Ann Shields Williams

Date of Death: _____, 1913

Date of Death: _____, 1930



Charles Williams was born circa 1848 in Tennessee. In the 1870 Census, Charles was listed as a 22 year-old black working as a waiter at the Leland Hotel in Springfield.¹⁴⁹ On February 12, 1891, Charles H. Williams (Wiggins) married Lucy A. Shields in Sangamon County. Charles died on ____, 1913, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Lucy A. Shields Williams died on ____, 1930, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁹ 1870 Census.

¹⁵⁰ Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 006/0384.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 5 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

ROW 6



View of Row 6 Looking South

There are nine stones and 11 grave marked burials in Row 6. There are 13 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 24 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

North→



- Lot 86 N part Seals Alex Gentry (6.1)
- Lot 87 S ½ Mary M. Bolton and Josephine Davis
- Lot 88 N 1/2 Gloria Gibson (6.4)
- Lot 88 S ½ Mary Ricks, Charles A. Ricks, Mary Ricks
- Lot 89 N ½ Mary Crenshaw, Eruter Cottman, (6.5) Hessie Daisie Clem, Eruter J. Cottman, James H. McGee (6.6)
- Lot 89 S ½ George T. Hawkins
- Lot 90 N ½ Elizabeth Clay and Henry Clay
- Lot 90 S ½ Martha A. Broady, Charlotte Brodie, Alexander Broady, Henry Broady
- Lot 91 S1/2 Sarah Cooper (6.8), Peter Cooper, and Ethel Horton (6.9)
- Lot 91 S 2/3 of N ½ John M. Wright
- Lot 91 N 1/6 Eva Irene Suggs (7.10)

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

6.1 North Side: Alex Gentry Seals



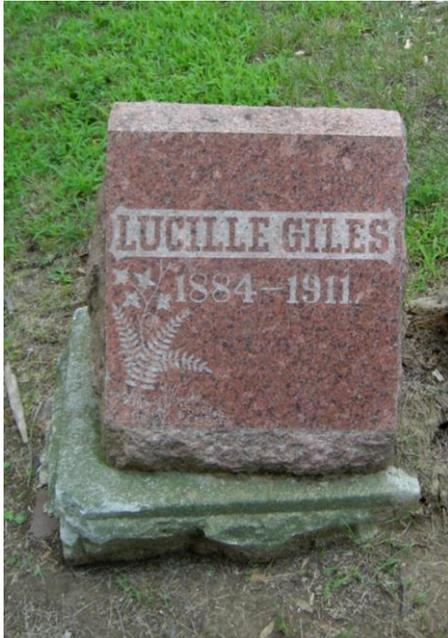
**6.1 Grave of Alex Gentry Seals
Date of Death: June 18, 1911**

Alex Gentry Seals died on June 18, 1911, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁵¹

¹⁵¹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 86 N. part purchased by Augustus Johnson and Alex Gentry Seals on August __, 1912.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

6.2 Lucille Giles



**6.2 Grave of Lucille Giles
Date of Death: January 31, 1911**

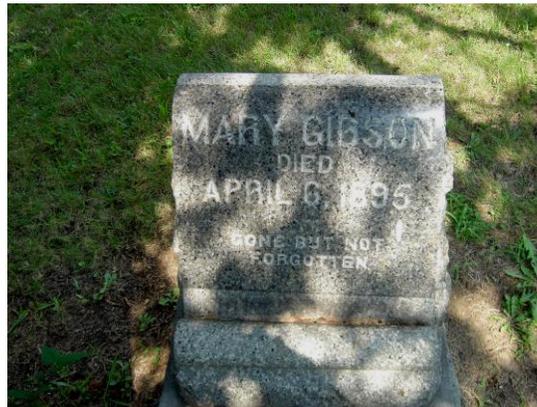
6.3 Eunice T. Giles



**6.3 Grave of Eunice T. Giles
Date of Death: September 7, 1911**

Lucille Giles was born in 1884. She died on January 31, 1911, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Eunice T. Giles, the daughter of D. E. and Lucille Giles, was born in 1909. She died on September 7, 1911, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. These stones face west.

6.4 Mary Gertrude Gibson



**6.4 Grave of Mary Gertrude Gibson
Date of Death: April 6, 1895**

Mary Gertrude Gibson died on April 6, 1895, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁵² This stone faces west.

¹⁵² *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 87 N. ½ and Lot 96 N. 1/2 purchased by David E. Giles on February 1, 1911.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

6.5 Rev. Ezekial T. Cottman



6.5 Grave of Rev. Ezekial T. Cottman
Date of Death: March 26, 1912

Ezekial T. Cottman was born in Indiana on February 25, 1856. His parents were both born in Virginia. He married _____, who was born in Indiana circa 1864. He was a minister and in Springfield led the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. Ezekial T. Cottman died on March 26, 1912, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

6.6 Dr. James H. Magee



6.6 Grave of Dr. James H. Magee
Date of Death: May 29, 1912

Dr. James H. Magee died on May 29, 1912, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁵³ This stone faces west.

¹⁵³ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 89 N. 1/2 purchased by Hessie Cottman on _____.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Rev. Dr. James H. Magee [1839-1912]

Rev. Dr. James H. Magee wrote a semi-autobiographical book which he published in 1873 while serving as a pastor of the Union Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. He studied at the Pastors College of London, England during 1867-68.

Magee was born the son of a former Kentucky slave in Madison County one year before Illinois was officially a “free” state. His father, Lazarus, had to purchase his mother, Susan, from her owner in Louisville, Kentucky, from whence they went to Upper Alton and thence to Macoupin County where they were able to purchase land.

The Magee children were denied educational opportunity equal to that of the white children of Macoupin County, and so they were sent to Racine, Wisconsin, for their schooling. On completing his education, Magee taught in a Jerseyville school for black children, was ordained a minister of the Baptist Church, and held several small pastorates, including one at the Zion Baptist Church in Springfield in 1864. He did not stay there because the senior pastor refused to yield the pulpit to his junior assistant. Later that same year, he attended a Baptist convention in St. Louis, where, he says, “I had much conversation about the one object of my desire....education...Time passed on and still my thirst for learning increased. I happened to think of a plan by which I thought I should be able to facilitate the obtaining of much wanted treasure.”

Magee’s plan took him to Toronto, where he continued his education while serving one of the largest black Baptist churches in Canada. He states in his book: “Although an American born subject, I must confess that I felt more at home the very first time my feet ever trod upon British soil than I ever felt in America.” It was his sad duty to preach a sermon on April 14, 1865, when news of Lincoln’s assassination reached Toronto, which, he says, “was a vast house of mourning.”

Magee’s desire to study under Spurgeon was so great that although he had been denied admission, he nevertheless sailed on May 18, 1867, from Montreal, aboard the “noble steamer Hibernain,” to personally implore the rector for a place of study. He succeeded and, a year later, returned to Canada with a private library given to him by Spurgeon himself.

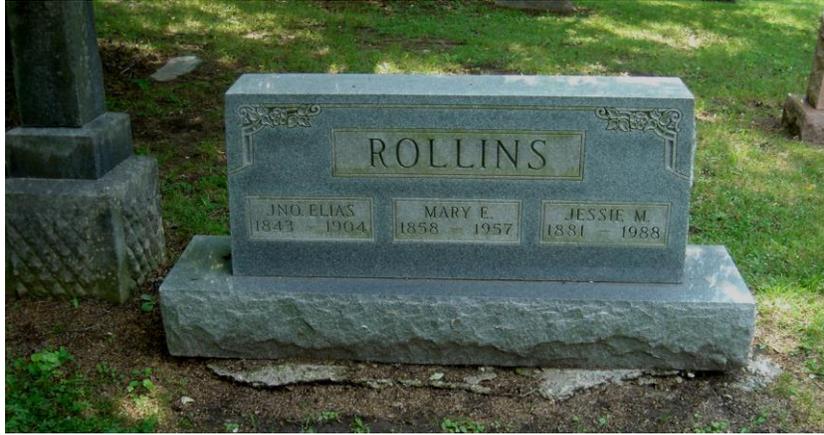
John M. Palmer, Jessie Palmer Weber, Secretary of State James A. Rose, and Gov. [Richard] Oglesby were willing to accept and reward Magee despite the lack of respect by the bulk of society.

In Springfield, Magee formed the Illinois State Colored Historical Society, held the presidency of the Ambidexter Institute, which was a manual-training school, and continued to lecture and preach the Gospel. He publicly castigated the school board in 1906 for denying valedictorian honors to a young African American girl who had rightfully earned the distinction and for barring students of color from commencement exercises. Magee spent the last 12 years of his life as a messenger for the state printer’s office, which was under the aegis of his friend, James Rose.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵⁴ *Illinois Times*, April 28, 2005, Bob Cavanagh.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

6.7 Jno Elias Rollins, Mary E. Taborn Rollins and Jessie M. Rollins



6.7 Graves of Jno Elias Rollins, Mary E. Taborn Rollins and Jessie M. Rollins
Date of Death: May 24, 1904
Date of Death: April 3, 1957
Date of Death: September 7, 1988

John Elias Rollins was born on a farm near Vincennes, Knox County, Indiana on October 1843. At age 17, he went to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he remained about two years. He then returned to Vincennes, Indiana, and worked at various places up to the time he came to Springfield. On March 10, 1871, he married Miss Sarah Oglesby. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and died in 1876.¹⁵⁵

On May 10, 1876, Jno Elias Rollins married Mary E. Taborn in Sangamon County, Illinois.¹⁵⁶ Mary E. Taborn was born in Springfield, Illinois on June 15, 1856(9), the daughter of Burton Taborn who was born in Alabama and died in 1875. Jno and Mary had a daughter Jessie M., who was born in July 9, 1881. Jno and Mary were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Jno was a Master Mason of Central Lodge, No.3, at Springfield. Mary was a member of Shiloh Court No. 1, Eastern Star Chapter No. 211.

The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists George H. Taborn as a carpenter residing at 1508 East Mason. Sarah, widow, residence: 15th, between Madison and Mason.

The 1900 census lists John as a janitor at the State. Living with the Rollins in 1900 was Louis B. Taborn, Mary's brother. In 1881, he was employed in the carpet department of Kimber & Ragsdale, where he had worked for the prior 14 years.¹⁵⁷

Jno Elias Rollins died on May 24, 1904, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

In 1926, Mary E. and Miss Jessie M. Rollins are listed as residing at 1127 East Mason. Jessie was a clerk at the Department of Public Welfare.¹⁵⁸

Mary E. Taborn Rollins died on April 3, 1957, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Jessie M. Rollins died on September 7, 1988, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁵ *1881 History*, p. 743.

¹⁵⁶ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 05/10/1876 005/0098.

¹⁵⁷ *1881 History*, p. 743.

¹⁵⁸ *Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens*, Springfield Directory Company, 1926.

¹⁵⁹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 80 purchased by J. E. Rollins on April 19, 1892.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

6.8 Sarah Cooper



6.8 Grave of Sarah Cooper
Date of Death: December 12, 1873

Sarah Cooper was the wife of the Rev. Peter C. Cooper. The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists Peter as a minister living on 3rd Street, next south of Canedy. Sarah Cooper died on December 12, 1873, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁶⁰

6.9 Ethel I. Horton



6.9 Grave of Ethel I. Horton
Date of Death: November 29, 1965

Ethel I. Horton was born in 1905. She died on November 29, 1965, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁶¹

¹⁶⁰ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 91 S. 1/2 purchased by Peter C. Cooper on December 12, 1893.

¹⁶¹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 91 S. 1/2 purchased by Peter C. Cooper on December 12, 1893.

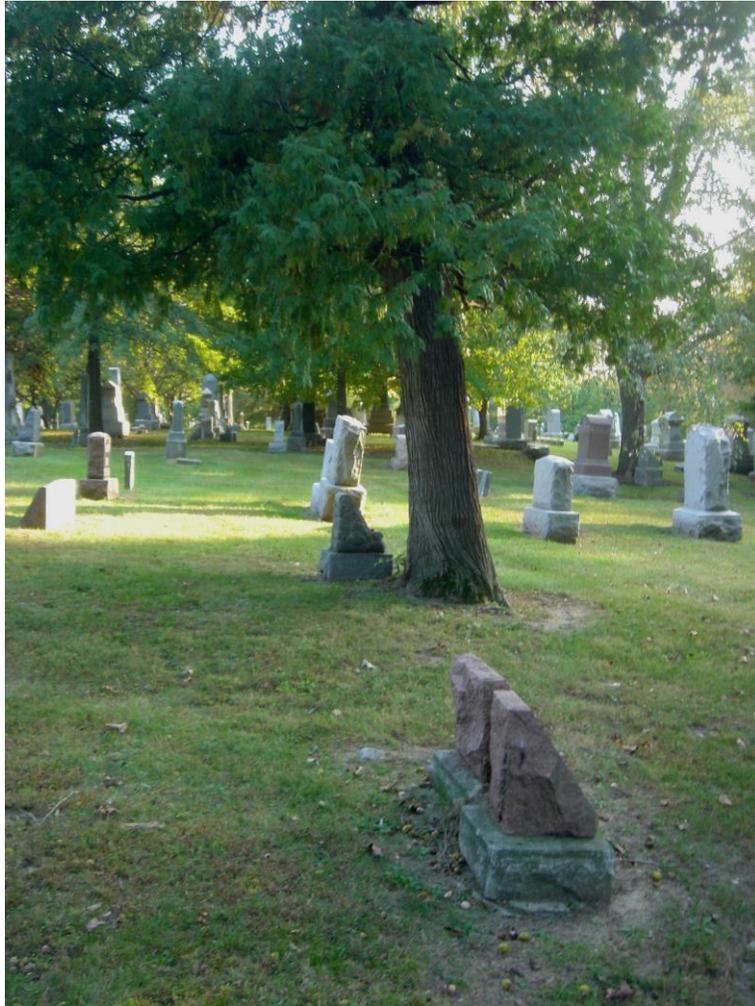
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 6 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

ROW 7



There are 11 stones and 11 grave marked burials in Row 7. There are 19 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 30 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

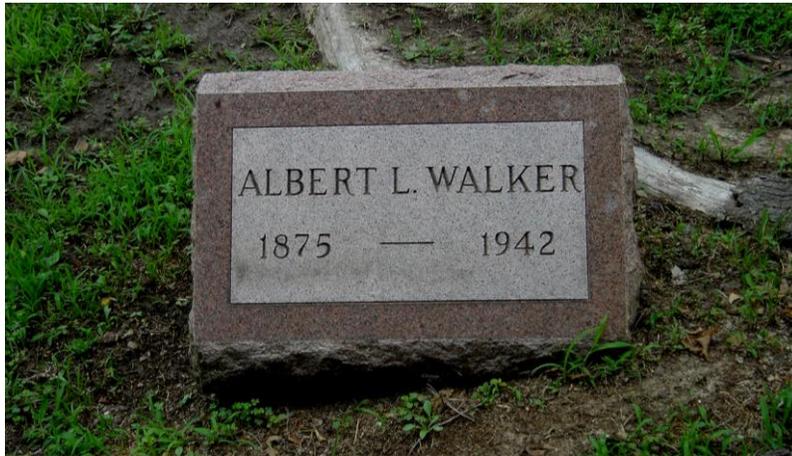
North→



- Lot 97** James H. Johnson, Ann Johnson, Della Walker (7.2) and Albert LeRoy Walker (7.1)
- Lot 96** N ½ Willar G. Giles, Melvina For, Mary Gertrude Giles
- Lot 96** S ½ Gertie Harris, Charles Harris and Sarah Jamison (7.5)
- Lot 95** Audy Harris, Alfred Wilson, J. S. Mason, Lucy W. Jordan, Elizabeth Mason, Callowy Thurman and George Wilson
- Lot 94** George Ramsey (7.6), Anna Johnson, Clennie Brosher Ramsey (7.6) and Thomas Ramsey
- Lot 93** N ½ Ellen Taylor (7.9), Joseph Faro (7.7) and Mary Faro (7.8)
- Lot 93** S ½ Broady James
- Lot 92** Margie Browner, Nancy White, Harriett Cromeer, Solomon White and Lula White Harrison

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

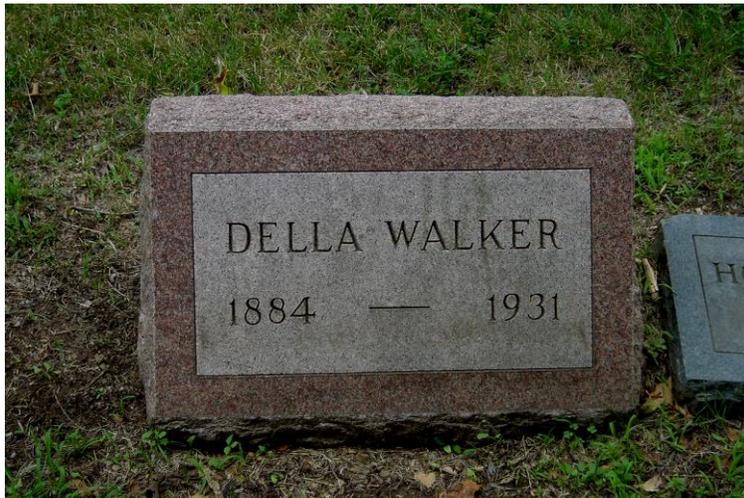
7.1 Albert LeRoy Walker



7.1 Grave of Albert LeRoy Walker
Date of Death: December 12, 1942

Albert LeRoy Walker was born in 1875. In 1926, he was working at the State House and living at 1139 Spring Street. He died on December 12, 1942, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁶² This stone faces west.

7.2 Della Walker



7.2 Grave of Della Walker
Date of Death: _____, 1931

Della Walker was born in 1884 in Texas. She was the daughter of Julia Walker who was born in Tennessee. Della was listed in the census as a mulatto. Della died in 1931, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. This stone faces west.

¹⁶² *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 97 purchased by Maud Johnson on December 26, 1912.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

7.3 Hozella N. Burns (nee Giles)



7.3 Grave of Hozella N. Burns (nee Giles)
Date of Death: February 13, 1951

Hozella N. Giles was born in 1907. She married Mr. Burns. Hozella died on February 13, 1951, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁶³ This stone faces west.

7.4 Giles Family Base Stone



7.4 Giles Family Base Stone

7.5 Sarah Jamerson



7.5 Grave of Sarah Jamerson
Date of Death: February 7, 1920

Sarah Jamerson was born in Illinois in 1861.¹⁶⁴ Sarah Jamerson died on February 7, 1920, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁶⁵ This stone faces west.

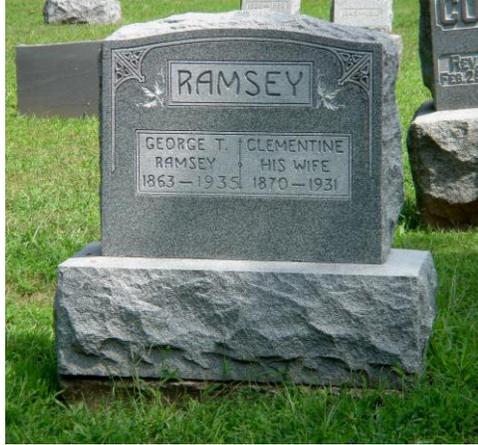
¹⁶³ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 87 N. ½ and Lot 96 N. 1/2 purchased by David E. Giles on

¹⁶⁴ *1900 Census, Springfield Ward 1, Sangamon, Illinois*; Roll: T623 342; Page: 15A; Enumeration District: 86.

¹⁶⁵ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 96 S. 1/2 purchased by Sarah Jamison on March 11, 1907.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

7.6 George Thomas and Clementine (nee Brasher) Ramsey



7.6 Graves of George Thomas and Clementine (nee Brasher) Ramsey
Date of Death: January 26, 1935
Date of Death: February 27, 1931¹⁶⁶

7.7 Joseph Faro



7.7 Grave of Joseph Faro
Date of Death: October 15, 1878

Joseph Faro (Jr.) was born in Trumbull County, Kentucky. His parents were Joseph Faro, Sr., and Hannah Faro. Joseph Faro, Jr., was first married to Hettie Davis, and they had ten children, six who lived, viz: Joseph, Daniel, Ada, Carrie, Laura and Martha. Joseph Faro, Jr. was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a farmer. Joseph Faro died on October 15, 1878, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁶ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 94 purchased by Thomas Ramsey on June 23, 1904.

¹⁶⁷ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 93 N. ½ purchased by Mary A. Farro on June __, 1905. Removed 4/25/ 1918, 6/9/1905.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

7.8 Mary A. Faro (nee Taylor)



7.8 Grave of Mary A. Faro (nee Taylor)
Date of Death: January 6, 1916

Mary Taylor was born in Shelby County, Kentucky, in December, 1830. In July 1861, she married Joseph Faro, and they had two children. Mary was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, on Fourth Street. Her father, Abson Taylor, was born in Shelby County, Kentucky, as was her mother, Jane Taylor. They were members of the Baptist Church. Mary Faro resided at 313 North Tenth Street.¹⁶⁸ The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists Mary as help at H. W. Holly's. Mary A. Faro died on January 6, 1916, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁶⁹

7.9 Ellen Taylor Faro



7.9 Grave of Ellen Taylor Faro
Date of Death: June 13, 1873

¹⁶⁸ *1881 History*, p. 742. *1910 Census*, Series: T624, Roll: 325, Part: 1, Page 51A.

¹⁶⁹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 93 N. ½ purchased by Mary A. Faro on June __, 1905.

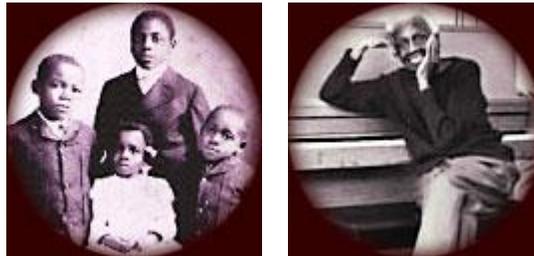
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Ruth Charlotte Ellis

Ruth Charlotte Ellis was the daughter of Charles and Carrie Faro Ellis and the granddaughter of Joseph Faro (Jr.) (7.7) and Hettie Davis. Ruth resided in Springfield from 1899 to 1936. Ruth is not buried in Oak Ridge, but her grandfather, Joseph, is. She is such an interesting and important figure in the 20th century American civil rights movement that I include here her brief biographical information.

Ellis was born in Springfield, Illinois, on July 23, 1899 to Charlie Ellis and Carrie Faro Ellis. She was the youngest of four children and the only daughter. Her parents were born in the last years of slavery in Tennessee. Ellis' mother died when she was a teen. She came out as a lesbian around 1915, and graduated from Springfield High School in 1919, at a time when fewer than seven percent of African Americans graduated from secondary school. In the 1920s, she met the only woman she ever lived with, Ceciline "Babe" Franklin. They moved together to Detroit, Michigan in 1937 where Ellis became the first American woman to own a printing business in that city. She made a living printing stationery, fliers, and posters out of her house. Ellis and Franklin's house was also known in the African American community as the "gay spot". It was a central location for gay and lesbian parties, and also served as a refuge for African American gays and lesbians. Although Ellis and Franklin eventually separated, they were together for more than 30 years. Franklin's died in 1973. Throughout her life, Ellis was an advocate for the rights of gays and lesbians, and of African Americans. She died in her sleep at her home on October 5, 2000.¹⁷⁰

On July 23, 1899, 38-year-old Charles Ellis (born in 1861) and 34-year-old Carrie Faro Ellis (born in 1865) gave birth to their first daughter Ruth [Charlotte Ellis]. [Siblings: Charles J. (born 1890), Harry D. (born 1894), Wellington B. (born 1896)] Charles and Carrie were of modest means, although her father Charles Ellis held the distinction of serving as Springfield's first black mail carrier.



Charles and Carrie Faro Ellis probably would not have guessed that their first and only daughter would outlive their entire family. In a world of white privilege and male patriarchy, the idea that a small-framed, dark-skinned black woman would live to become a cultural icon and one day celebrate her 100th birthday as perhaps the oldest living "out" lesbian in America would defy all the odds for her survival.

The birth of Ruth's parents in 1861 and 1865 marked the beginning and end of the bloodiest war in America's history. They were born in the slave state of Tennessee in the last years of slavery. They traveled up the Mississippi River to Illinois, a free state that sided with the Union in the war, and whose capital, Springfield. Ruth Ellis was born in a somewhat integrated community known for its relatively progressive values, but that sense of community would soon self-destruct only a month after Ruth's ninth birthday celebration.

Civil rights leaders were so alarmed by the race riot in Lincoln's home town that they convened an urgent meeting in an apartment in New York City on the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth to form a watchdog group, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Although the NAACP hoped to protect blacks from future outbreaks of race violence, Ruth and her family had already managed to cheat death. Charles Ellis, armed only with a sword, refused to leave his house in Springfield and stayed to thwart off a band of rowdy, brick-throwing whites. Young Ruth watched as her father defended the house in 1908, but today she describes the incident with a certain quiet detachment that seems to belie the gravity of the danger she faced.

¹⁷⁰ Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth_Ellis_%28American%29.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



7.10 Eva Irene Florville Suggs



7.10 Grave of Eva Irene Florville Suggs
Date of Death: May 18, 1955

Eva Irene Florville Suggs was born in July 1898 to William LaRue and Eva N. Decosto Florville. (3.10) She was the granddaughter of William and Phoebe Florville. (3.11) She married Norman R. Wright on September 4, 1917, in Fountain County, Indiana. She later married Lawrence Suggs and lived in Springfield. She died on May 18, 1955, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁷¹

7.11 Maria A. White

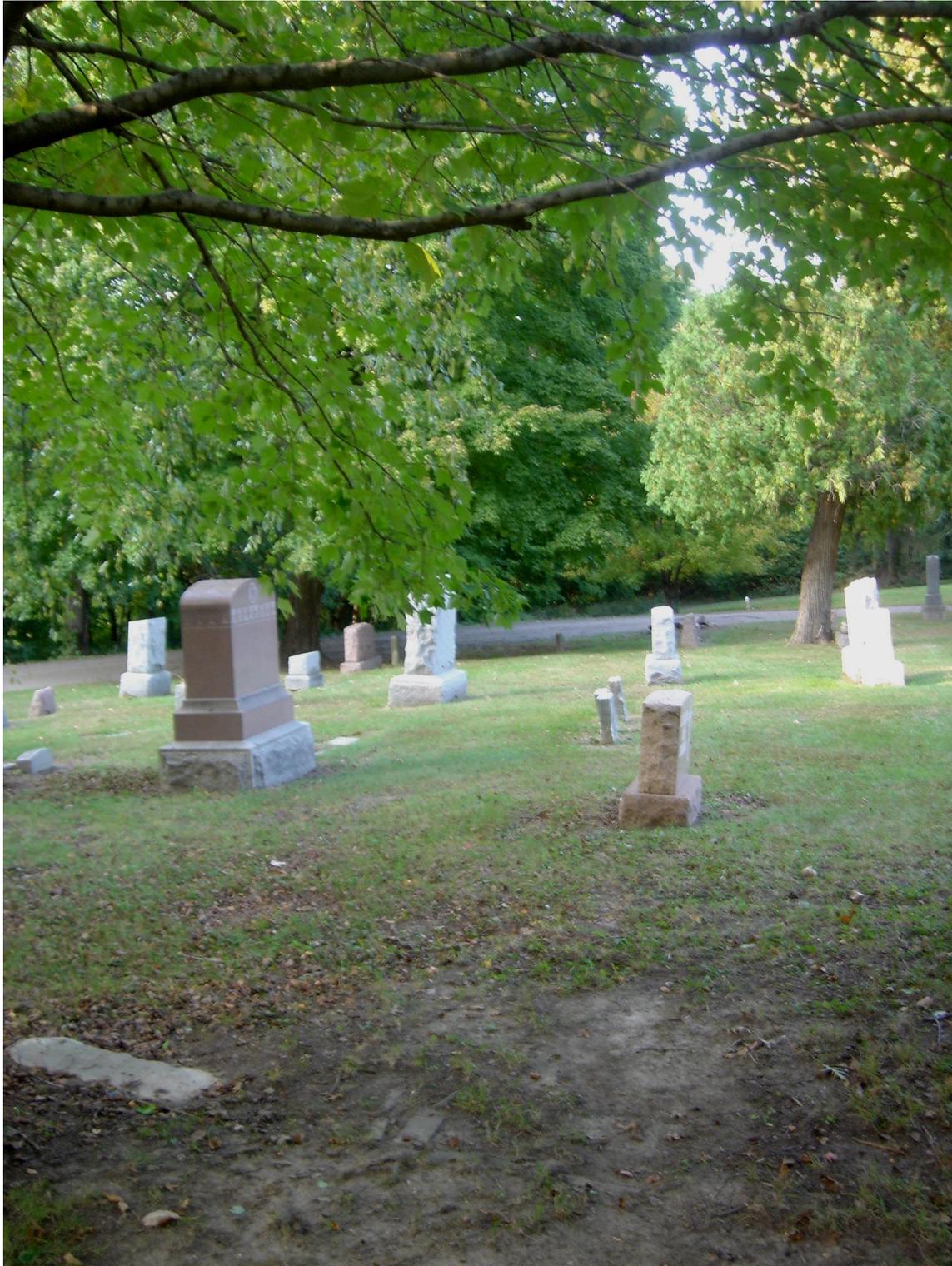


7.11 Grave of Maria A. White
Date of Death: August 1, 1891

Maria A. White was born circa 1850. She married to Solomon M. White. She died on August 1, 1891, at age 40 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

¹⁷¹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 91 N. 1/6 purchased by Mrs. Phoebe Duncan on May 23, 1955.

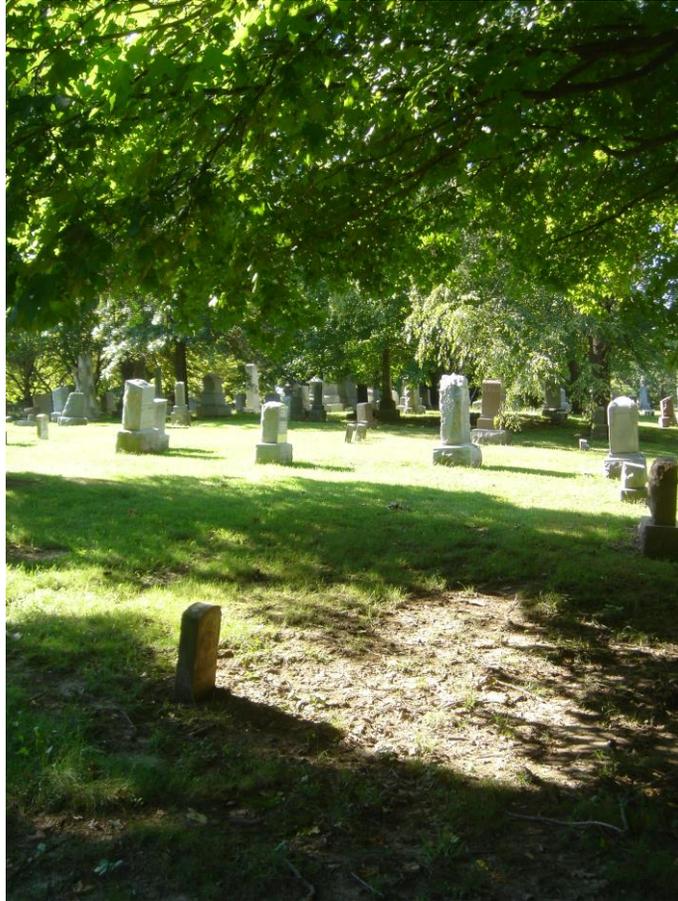
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 7 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

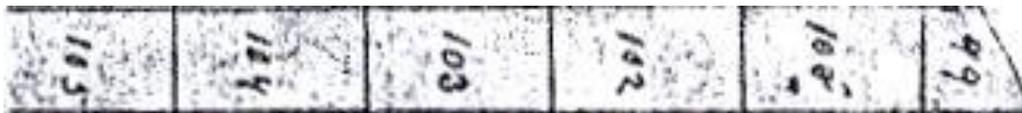
ROW 8



View of Row 8 Looking South

There are seven stones and nine grave marked burials in Row 8. There are 16 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 25 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

North→



Lot 99 Sarah King

Lot 100 Edward R. Wormley (8.1), Theodore E. Wormley, Emily R. Wormley, Henry Lambert, Robert Wormley, Emma Jane Blanchard, Celia Lambert, Louise Wilson Tucker, Jesse H. Wormley

Lot 101

Lot 102 Alice May Smith, Irene M. Smith, Alice Hubbard, Henry Smith and Bertha Smith Williams

Lot 103 Emma M. Rector (8.2), Mary Brown (8.2), Harry C. Brown and John Brown (8.2)

Lot 104

Lot 105 G. C. Hinton, George W. Brooks, Laura B. Hinton, Goldie Hinton, Clement Hinton and Lucy E. Hinton

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



8.1 Edward R. Wormley



8.1 Grave of Edward R. Wormley
Date of Death: December 2, 1908

Edward R. Wormley was born in 1879 in Indiana.¹⁷² Edward served in the 8th Illinois Infantry during the Spanish American War and held the rank of Corporal. Edward died on December 2, 1908, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁷³



8.2 John and Mary Brown and Emma Brown Rector



8.2 Graves of John and Mary Brown and Emma Brown Rector
Date of Death: October 9, 1928
Date of Death: December 6, 1909
Date of Death: March 16, 1907

¹⁷² *1900 Census*: Springfield Ward 1, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T623 342; Page: 11A; Enumeration District: 86.

¹⁷³ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 100 purchased by Celia and Jennie Wormley on June 14, 1910.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

John Brown was born on _____. Mary ___ was born on _____. John and Mary were married. They had a daughter, Emma M., who married Titus S. Rector on May 19, 1891 in Sangamon County, Illinois.¹⁷⁴ John Brown died on October 9, 1928, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Mary Brown died on December 6, 1909, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Emma M. Brown Rector died on March 16, 1907, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁷⁵ This stone faces west.

8.3 Harry C. Brown



Harry C. Brown

8.4 Emma M. Brown Rector



Emma M. Brown Rector

8.5 Helen Adrain Hubbard



8.5 Grave of Helen Adrain Hubbard
Date of Death: June 26, 1910

8.6 Louis Warren Hubbard



8.6 Grave of Louis Warren Hubbard
Date of Death: September 20, 1951

In 1926, Louis W. Hubbard was a mine engineer living at 1128 East Ash Street. Louis died on September 20, 1951, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁷⁶ Helen Adrain Hubbard was the infant daughter of Louis. She was born in 1908 and died on June 26, 1910, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

¹⁷⁴ *Illinois Marriage Index*, 006/0397, Sangamon.

¹⁷⁵ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 103 purchased by John Brown on March 18, 1907.

¹⁷⁶ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 100 purchased by Celia and Jennie Wormley on June 14, 1910.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

8.7 James E. and Martha J. Hubbard



8.7 Grave of James E. and Martha J. Hubbard

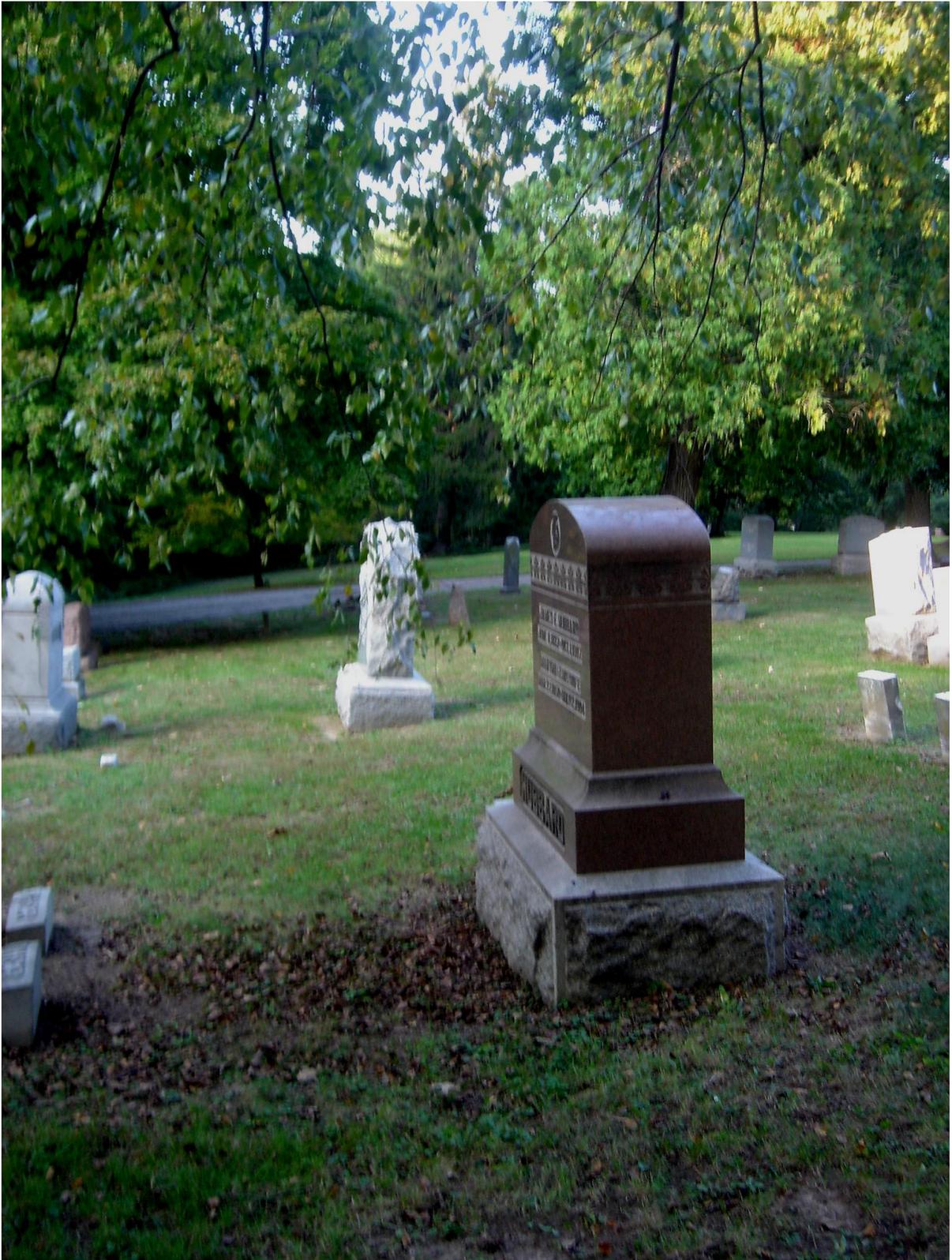
Date of Death: October 1, 1907

Date of Death: May 2, 1904

James E. Hubbard was born on June 11, 1837. The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists him as boarding at the corner of 11th and Ash Streets. He died on October 1, 1907, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Martha J. Hubbard was born on March 27, 1850. She died on May 2, 1904, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁷ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lots 104 and 107 purchased by James E. Hubbard on May 3, 1904.

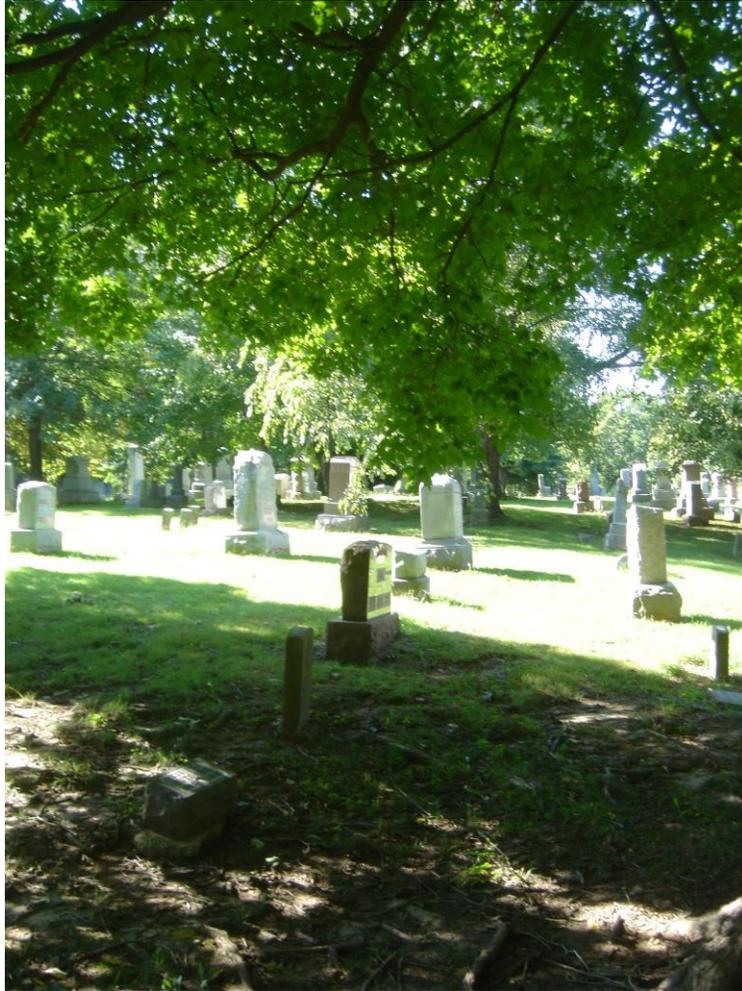
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 8 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

ROW 9



View of Row 9 Looking South

There are eight stones and 14 grave marked burials in Row 9. There are 3 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 17 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

North→



Lot 111

Lot 110

Lot 109 N ½ Jessie D. Nex (Payne) (9.3), Mary Ann Fry (9.3) and Thomas Franklin Nix (9.3)

Lot 109 S ½ Hamilton Infant of Ed., Lee, J. S. D. (9.4), Mary Belle Lee (9.4), John Melvin Lee, May Blossom Hayes, William R. Lee

Lot 108 Lula Hubbard (9.3), William Hubbard, William P. Hubbard (9.3), Ethel Hubbard

Lot 107

Lot 106 Ida Joiner, Harry A. Joiner (9.8), Edward C. Joiner (9.8) and Francis E. Joiner

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

9.1 Henrietta Hutchins



9.1 Grave of Henrietta Hutchins
Date of Death: _____, 1940



9.2 Olie King



9.2 Grave of Olie King
Date of Death: August 18, 1933

In 1926, Olie King was living at 1128 South Pasfield Street.¹⁷⁸ He died on August 18, 1933, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

¹⁷⁸ *Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens*, Springfield Directory Company, 1926.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

9.3 Mary Ann Fry, Jessie D. and Thomas Franklin Nix



9.3 Grave of Mary Ann Fry, Jessie D. and Thomas Franklin Nix
Date of Death: July 23, 1924
Date of Death: October 22, 1952
Date of Death: February 28, 1948

Thomas Franklin Nix was born in 1873. In 1926, Thomas was residing at 206 West Elliot. He was a janitor at the State House.¹⁷⁹ Thomas died on February 28, 1948, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Mary Ann Fry was born in 1859. Mary died on July 23, 1924, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Jessie D. Nix was born in 1889. Jessie died on October 22, 1952, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁹ *Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens*, Springfield Directory Company, 1926.

¹⁸⁰ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 109 N. 1/2 purchased by Payne Jessie on May 11, 1910.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

9.4 John Samuel David and Mary Belle Lee



9.4 Graves of John Samuel David and Mary Belle Lee
Date of Death: October 24, 1909
Date of Death: September 7, 1919

John Samuel David Lee was born in Kentucky about 1832, the son of Caroline Donnegan and Peter Lee and the grandson of Lee Ann Donnegan and Joe Knox.¹⁸¹

Mary Belle Lee was born about 1837 in Illinois.¹⁸²

John and Mary Belle Lee were married on October 23, 1856, in Sangamon County, Illinois.¹⁸³ They had at least 5 children: Caroline, William, Lizzie, Allen and Harriett.

In the 1860 Census, John Lee is listed as a 30 year-old Black shoemaker who was born in Kentucky. His wife, Mary, is listed as a 33 year-old housewife who was born in Illinois. They have five children: Caroline, age 12, William, age 9, Lizzie, age 7, Allen, age 3, and Harriet, age 9 months, all of whom were born in Illinois.

The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists John Lee as a shoemaker residing at 1416 East Adams.

John died on October 24, 1909, and Mary Belle died on September 7, 1919. Both were buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁸⁴

¹⁸¹ *1850 Census*, Lebanon, St Clair, Illinois, Page: 507, Roll: M432_126.

¹⁸² *1870 Census*, Roll: M593_282, Page: 346, Image: 93.

¹⁸³ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*.

¹⁸⁴ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 109 S ½ purchased by Mary Belle Lee on October 25, 1909.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



9.5 William P. and Lula C. Brown Hubbard



9.5 Graves of William P. and Lula C. Brown Hubbard

Date of Death: July 4, 1937

Date of Death: August 3, 1909

On March 25, 1864, William P. Hubbard, a resident of Kinderhook, Illinois, enlisted as a Private in Company E, 29th Infantry Regiment UC 9 United States Colored Troops. He mustered out on November 6, 1865. He was discharged with Distinguished Service.¹⁸⁵

The 1887 *Springfield City Directory* lists William P. Hubbard as residing at the corner of 11th and Adams Streets. On July 30, 1889, William P. Hubbard married Lula C. Brown in Sangamon County.¹⁸⁶ Lula C. Brown was born in 1868, the daughter of Henry (11.7) and Mary Ann Brown. (11.8) William P. Hubbard died on July 4, 1937, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Lula C. Brown Hubbard died on August 3, 1909, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁵ Unit Numbers: 2914 2914.

¹⁸⁶ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, Illinois State Archives, 006/0286.

¹⁸⁷ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 108 Purchased by William A. Hubbard on August 3, 1909.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

9.6 George N. Hubbard



9.6 Grave of George N. Hubbard
Date of Death: September 20, 1951

George N. Hubbard was born in 1881 and died on September 20, 1951. He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁸⁸

9.7 Elizabeth H. and Frank Ruben Wilkins



9.7 Graves of Elizabeth H. and Frank Ruben Wilkins
Date of Death: February 17, 1968
Date of Death: December 16, 1945

Elizabeth H. (Hubbard?) was born in 1876. Frank Ruben Wilkins was born in 1858. Elizabeth and Frank were married. In 1926, Elizabeth Wilkins was living at 1957 South 11th Street. She was an elevator operator at the State House.¹⁸⁹ Elizabeth Wilkins died on February 17, 1968, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Frank died on December 16, 1945, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁸ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lots 104 and 107, purchased by James E. Hubbard on May 3, 1904.

¹⁸⁹ *Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens*, Springfield Directory Company, 1926.

¹⁹⁰ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lots 104 and 107, purchased by James E. Hubbard on May 3, 1904.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

9.8 West Side: Rev. Edward C. Joiner



**9.8 West Side: Grave of Rev. Edward C. Joiner
Date of Death: January 20, 1888**

The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists Rev. Edward C. Joiner as a Methodist minister residing at 230 West Jefferson Street. Reverend Edward C. Joiner died on January 20, 1888, at age 46, 9 months and 8 days and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁹¹ The Oak Ridge burial register shows Ida Joiner and Francis E. Joiner also buried in this lot 106.

9.8 South Side: Harry A. Joiner



**9.8 South Side: Harry A. Joiner
Date of Death: March 16, 1887**

Harry A. Joiner died on March 16, 1887, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

¹⁹¹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 106 purchased by Mrs. F. E. Joiner on October 4, 1898.

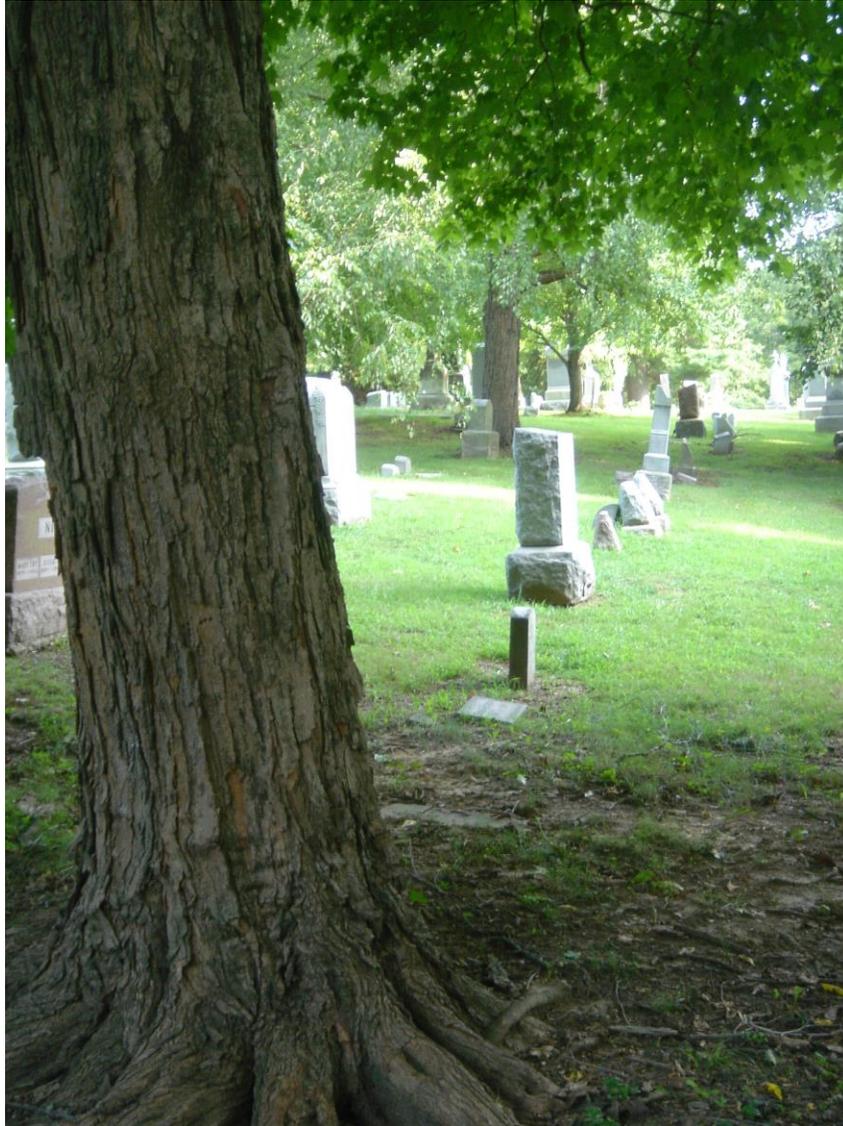
The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 9 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

ROW 10



View of Row 10 Looking South

There are 11 stones and 14 grave marked burials in Row 10. There are 3 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 11 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

North→



- Lot 114 Mrs. Mary Etta Lee, Maggie [Mattie] Allen (10.6), Mollie Skinner (10.7) and Charles Calvin Lee (10.5)
- Lot 115 Mary J. Holt (10.8), Betty Moore, George H. Smith
- Lot 116 Willie Edwards (10.11), Cora Hoffman, Grace Edwards (10.11) and Cora Burton (10.10)

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

10.1 Illegible Stone



10.1 Illegible Stone

10.2 Salona (nee Nelson) Patterson



10.2 Grave of Salona (nee Nelson) Patterson
Date of Death: June 29, 1959

Salona Nelson was born in Illinois about 1887, the daughter of William and Amanda Fry Nelson. (10.4) In the 1910 Census, “Salome” Nelson was listed as a 23 year-old single black woman. She was the daughter of Amanda Nelson, a 53 year-old widow of William, who died on January 19, 1909. The family lived at 530 West Canedy, where Salona died on June 29, 1959, at age 78.

MRS. SALONA PATTERSON
Funeral services for Mrs. Salona Patterson, 78, of 530 W. Canedy St., will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at St. Paul's AME Church, the Rev. Lovell Johnson officiating. Burial will be in Oak Ridge Cemetery.
Mrs. Patterson died Monday at her home.
Remains are at the W. W. White Funeral Home.

Obituary of Salona Patterson¹⁹²

¹⁹² *Journal*, June 30, 1959, p. 8 and 16.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

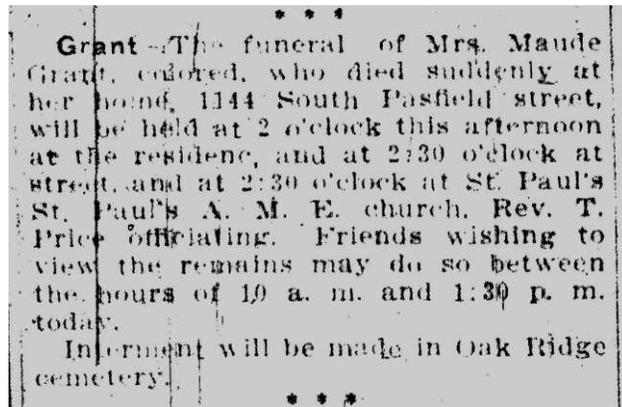
10.3 Maud Nelson Grant



10.3 Grave of Maud Nelson Grant
Date of Death: February 10, 1910

Maud Nelson, born on September 30, 1878, was the daughter of William and Amanda Fry Nelson. (10.4) She married Charles Grant.

The *1887 Springfield City Directory* listed Charles Grant as a porter at the Leland Hotel. In the 1910 Census, Edna and Margaret, ages 7 and 6 respectively, are living in the household of their grandmother, Amanda Nelson. Maud died on February 10, 1910, at her home at 1144 South Pasfield Street. She was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.



Obituary of Maud Nelson Grant¹⁹³

¹⁹³ *Journal*, February 12, 1910, p. 6.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

10.4 William and Amanda Fry Nelson, Leona and Alice Nelson and Luella Nelson Davis



10.4 Graves of William and Amanda Fry Nelson, Leona and Alice Nelson and Luella Nelson Davis

Date of Death: January 19, 1909
Date of Death: December 20, 1930
Date of Death: May 13, 1904
Date of Death: November 22, 1915
Date of Death: _____, 1951

William Nelson was born in Kentucky in 1847. The 1870 Census lists William Nelson as a 22 year old Colored man living in Springfield.

On July 6, 1871, William married Amanda Fry in Sangamon County, Illinois.¹⁹⁴ Amanda was born in 1857, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Fry, both of whom were born in Kentucky.¹⁹⁵ Amanda was a laundress.

William and Amanda Fry Nelson had at least eight children: Alice, born circa 1877, and Salome Patterson, born circa 1887, (10.2) Mrs. Charles Grant (Maude)(11.3), Mrs. Paul Payne, Mrs. Virginia (Mark) Cummings, Mrs. Luella Jarbo, Leona, born in 1884, and a son, Thomas William Nelson.

The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists William Nelson as a bricklayer residing at 530 W. Canedy. William was a member of the Zion Baptist Church. William died on January 19, 1909, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Amanda Fry Nelson died on December 20, 1930, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

¹⁹⁴ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 004/0469.

¹⁹⁵ *1881 History*, p. 743. Thomas Fry was born in Kentucky, June 14, 1844. When an infant, he came to Sangamon county, Illinois, and lived on a farm near Springfield with his father, until 1860, when he went to Minnesota, and farmed two years there, then returned to Sangamon county and farmed until 1867, when he began to work at the Leland Hotel, where he still remains. His father, Richard Fry, was born in Kentucky, and came to Springfield in 1844. He died in 1866. His wife, Mary Fry, was born in Kentucky. She was the mother of ten children, six living, viz., Thomas, Sarah Oglesby, Amanda Nelson, Mary, John, and Robert. Thomas Fry, the subject of this sketch, has a common school education. He cast his first vote for U. S. Grant for President.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Nelson—Died, at 2:30 p. m., Friday, May 13, 1904, at the residence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Nelson, 530 West Canedy street, of bronchial trouble, Leona Nelson, aged 20 years, 5 months, 5 days.

The funeral arrangements have not been completed.

The decedent is survived by her parents; one brother, Thomas Nelson; six sisters, Alice, Salona and Jessie Nelson, Mrs. Maud Grant, of this city, Mrs. Luella Jarbo of Chicago, and Mrs. Virginia Cummins of Decatur.

* * *

Nelson—Died, Jan. 19, 1909, at his residence, 530 West Canedy street, after a prolonged illness, William Nelson, colored.

Deceased was a member of the Zion Baptist church and at the time of his death held the office of deacon, and was also a member of Central lodge No. 3, A. F. & A. M., being a 32d degree member.

Deceased is survived by his wife, six daughters, Alice and Sloan Nelson, Mrs. Charles Grant and Mrs. Paul Payne, of Springfield, Mrs. Mark Cummings, of Decatur, Ill., Mrs. Luella Jarbo, of Chicago, and one son, Thomas William Nelson, of Ann Arbor, Mich.

The funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Obituary of Leona Nelson¹⁹⁶

Obituary of William Nelson¹⁹⁷

NELSON—Died, at 7:05 o'clock Monday morning, Nov. 22, 1915, at the family residence, 530 West Canedy street, Miss Alice Nelson, aged 39 years and 3 weeks.

Funeral services will be announced later.

As survivors she leaves her mother, Mrs. Amanda Nelson; four sisters, Miss Luella Nelson, Mrs. Salona Patterson of Chicago, Mrs. Vingle Cumming of Decatur and Mrs. Jessie Payne of this city; one aunt, Mrs. Mary Fry, and two uncles, Robert and John Fry, all of this city, and many other relatives and friends.

* * *

Obituary of Alice Nelson¹⁹⁸

10.5 Charles Calvin Lee



10.5 Grave of Charles Calvin Lee
Date of Death: December 10, 1942

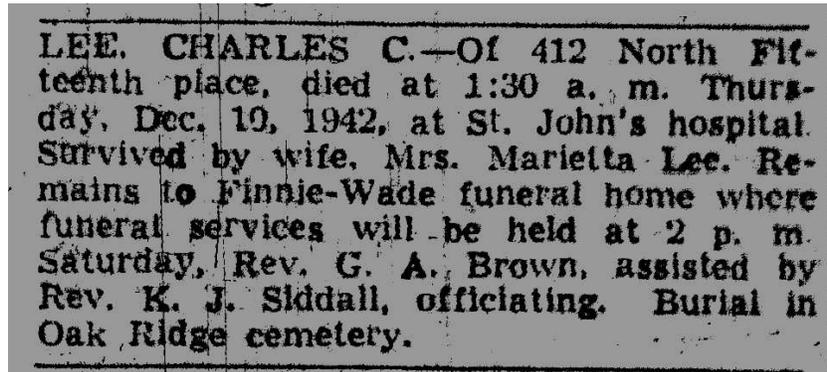
¹⁹⁶ *Journal*, May 14, 1904, p. 6.

¹⁹⁷ *Register*, January 20, 1904, p. 5.

¹⁹⁸ *Journal*, November 23, 1915, p. 7.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Charles Calvin Lee was born in Virginia 1865. He married Marietta. Charles Calvin Lee died on December 10, 1942, at his residence at 412 North Fifteenth Street, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.¹⁹⁹



Obituary of Charles C. Lee²⁰⁰

The Springfield Race Riot of 1908

Two leading black political captains, one a Democrat and the other a Republican, saw their businesses attacked during the riot. The mob's attack was nonpartisan—they thoroughly wrecked both places. One of these black power brokers was Republican C. C. Lee, a Virginia-born businessman in his mid-thirties. With the aid of his wife, Lee had succeeded in several ventures in Springfield. A saloonkeeper in 1900, by 1902 he ran a small hotel as well. In 1907 Lee launched a more ambitious scheme and combined a theater, saloon, poolroom, and restaurant in a single large building on East Washington Street. A white newspaper described him contemptuously at the height of his career: "Lee is a white coon, short of stature, a flashy dresser on whose bosom there generally sparkles a diamond as big as a hand mirror." Lee's rival Democrat William Johnson, according to the white press, "conducted a saloon and crap game on the levee between Seventh and Eighth streets." Allegedly, most black voters from the First and Seventh Wards owed allegiance to one or the other of these two men, whose businesses "swarmed with colonies of illegal voters" on election days. Rioters systematically wrecked both Lee's and Johnson's places. Lee's losses alone, which included an electric piano that the mob chopped into kindling, amounted to over \$8,000. Though the rioters perhaps had other reasons for sacking the black political captains' businesses, Lee and Johnson, conspicuous with their "flashy" clothes and election-day wads of dollar bills, may have symbolized to these whites the blacks' so-called "exalted notion of importance" that Reverend Rogers so deplored.²⁰¹

"With few exceptions, former black saloonkeepers stayed on in Springfield, but they worked in different occupations. William Johnson, one of the two major black political ward captains, for example, sustained major losses when the mob sacked his saloon. He remained on the Levee but ran a pool hall instead of a drinking establishment after the riot. His rival, C. C. Lee, reopened his saloon a block away from Johnson's place on Washington Street."²⁰²

¹⁹⁹ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 114 purchased by Charles C. Lee on October 19, 1904.

²⁰⁰ *Journal*, December 11, 1942, p. 30.

²⁰¹ *The Sociogenesis of a Race Riot: Springfield, Illinois, in 1908*, Roberta Senechal, University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago, 1990, pp. 132-133. (Hereinafter referred to as "Senechal.")

²⁰² *Senechal*, p. 181.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

10.6 Maggie Allen



10.6 Grave of Maggie Allen
Date of Death: September 19, 1904

Maggie Allen was born in 1883. She died at age 23 on Monday, September 19, 1904, at the residence of L. R. Carter at 211 West Washington Street. She died of consumption. She was survived by her sister, Marietta, Mrs. Charles E. Lee.

Allen—Died, at 4:30 a. m., Monday, Sept. 19, 1904, at the residence of I. R. Carter, 211 West Washington street, of consumption, Maggie Allen, aged 23 years.
The funeral will take place at 3 o'clock this afternoon at the residence. Rev. Mr. Anderson will officiate. The interment will be made in Oak Ridge cemetery.
The decedent is survived by her sister, Mrs. Charles E. Lee of this city.

Obituary of Maggie Allen²⁰³

10.7 Mattie Skinner



10.7 Grave of Mattie Skinner
Date of Death: May 28, 1906

Mattie Skinner was born in 1883. She died on May 28, 1906, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery²⁰⁴

²⁰³ *Journal*, September 20, 1904, p. 6.

²⁰⁴ Oak Ridge Cemetery Records, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 114 purchased by Charles C. Lee on October 19, 1904.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

10.8 Mary Jane Holt



10.8 Grave of Mary Jane Holt
Date of Death: January 11, 1904

The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists William Holt as a cook residing at 1522 East Capitol Avenue. Mary Jane Holt died on January 11, 1904, at age 70, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

10.9 Mary J. Day



10.9 Grave of Mary J. Day
Date of Death: July 30, 1945

Mary J. Day was born in 1872 and died on July 30, 1945. She was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. ²⁰⁵

²⁰⁵ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lots 104 and 107, purchased by James E. Hubbard on May 3, 1904.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

10.10 Cora Burton



10.10 Grave of Cora Burton
Date of Death: June 27, 1939

Cora Burton was born in 1875 and died on June 27, 1939. She was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.²⁰⁶

10.11 Charles Willie and Gracie Olivia Edwards



10.11 Graves of Charles Willie and Gracie Olivia Edwards
Date of Death: October 10, 1903
Date of Death: February 17, 1906

Charles Willie Edwards was born on November 14, 1892. Gracie Olivia Edwards was born on September 20, 1894. Charles died on October 10, 1903. Gracie died on February 17, 1906. Both were buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.²⁰⁷

²⁰⁶ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 116, purchased by William L. Edwards on October 12, 1903.

²⁰⁷ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 116 purchased by William L. Edwards on October 12, 1903.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 10 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

ROW 11



View of Row 11 Looking South

There are 10 stones and 13 grave marked burials in Row 11. There are 3 unmarked graves in this row. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are 10 registered burials in this row. The names of those found in the register are shown below opposite the lot number where the records show them to have been buried.

North→



- Lot 118 Rev. Henry Brown (11.7), Catherine Lee (11.6), Mary Brown (11.8), Edward Lee (11.6), Nannie B. Morgan (11.9) and Albert Morgan
- Lot 117 Robert Blakeman (11.10), Eugene Blakeman, Elizabeth S. Curtis, Louisa Blakeman

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

11.1 Campbell A. Smith



11.1 Grave of Campbell A. Smith
Date of Death: December 16, 1968

Campbell A. Smith was born in 1905 and died on December 16, 1968. He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

11.2 Carrie (nee Sawyer) and William S. Garnett



11.2 Graves of Carrie (nee Sawyer) and William S. Garnett
Date of Death: November 7, 1901
Date of Death: February 22, 1904

William S. Garnett was born in 1850 in Kentucky. He married Carrie Sawyer on September 27, 1900, in Sangamon County, Illinois.²⁰⁸ They lived in Riverton. They had one daughter, Georgia Sawyers. Carrie was a sister of Mrs. Joseph Dent. They were members of the Union Baptist Church. Carrie Sawyer Garnett died on November 7, 1901, at age 43, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. William S. Garnett died on February 22, 1904, at age 53, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. William's body was found in the barn at his home property and was partly under the feet of a horse. It was supposed that he was seized with heart failure and fell and was trampled upon by the horse.

Garnett—Died, at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 7, 1901, of dropsy of the heart, at the family residence in Riverton, Mrs. Carrie Garnett, aged 43 years.
Mrs. Garnett is survived by her husband, W. S. Garnett; one daughter, Georgia Sawyers, of Riverton; and one sister, Mrs. Joseph Dent, of Springfield.
The funeral will be held at 11 o'clock this morning in the Union Baptist church in this city. The interment will be made in Oak Ridge cemetery.

Obituary of Carrie Sawyer Garnett²⁰⁹

Garnett—Died, at 4:30 o'clock Monday afternoon, Feb. 22, 1904, at his home in Riverton, of heart failure, William S. Garnett (colored), aged 53 years.
Funeral announcement will be made later.
Garnett's body was found in the barn on his premises and was partly under the feet of a horse. It is supposed that he was seized with heart failure and, falling, was trampled upon by the horse.

Obituary of William S. Garnett²¹⁰

²⁰⁸ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 00021166. 1900 Census, Clear Lake, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T623 343; Page: 7A; Enumeration District: 106.

²⁰⁹ *Journal*, February 23, 1904, p. 6.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

11.3 Hezkiah and Martha Hicklin



11.3 Grave of Hezkiah and Martha Hicklin
Date of Death: January 7, 1904 (Born 1835)
Date of Death: November 15, 1922 (Born 1839)

Hezkiah Hicklin was born in Kentucky circa 1834. Hezekiah came to Springfield in 1859. He married Martha _____, who was born in Illinois circa 1839.²¹¹ They had a son, Walter, and a daughter, Minnie Slaughter. In the 1870 Census, Hezkiah is listed as a 36 year-old barber living with Martha, his 31 year-old wife, and three children, Charles, age 8, Frank, age 7, and Oliver, age 4. In the *1887 Springfield City Directory* he is listed as a barber residing at 326 N. 13th.

Martha was an active worker in fraternal and charity organizations. She was a teacher at the industrial school in the Y.M.C.A. building in 1922. She was a member of the first W.C.T.U and the Springfield Benevolent Society. She was first treasurer of the Lincoln Colored Home, a charter member of Estella Chapter No. B. O.E. S. and a charter member of Mother of Tabernacle of State of Illinois. She was a member of the Illinois State Historical Society and a life member of St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church. She was a reader of the Illinois State Journal for 61 years.

For many years Hezekiah was prominent in local politics. He was at one time a member of the Sangamon County Board of Supervisors, and he held other offices. He was a member of Central Lodge No. 3 A. F. and A. M.

Hezkiah died on January 7, 1904, at age 70, at the family home at 326 North Thirteenth Street. Martha died on November 15, 1922.

Hicklin—Died, at 1:40 p. m., Thursday, Jan. 7, 1904, at the family residence, 326 North Thirteenth street, Hezekiah Hicklin, aged 70 years. The arrangements for the funeral have not been completed. The decedent is survived by his wife, one daughter, Mamie, and three sons, Charles, Frank and Walter Hicklin. He came to Springfield in 1859, and was for many years prominent in local politics. He was at one time a member of the Sangamon county board of supervisors, and held other offices. He was a member of Central lodge No. 3. A. F. and A. M., which organization will have charge of the funeral services.

Obituary of Hezekiah Hicklin²¹²

HICKLIN, MRS. MARTHA—Died at 1:40 p. m., Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1922, at St. Paul's hospital of pneumonia at the age of 83 years. Remains were taken to the family residence, 326 North Thirteenth street. Funeral announcement later. Surviving are a son, Walter; a daughter, Mrs. Minnie Slaughter; three brothers, Arthur and Henry Williams of Lincoln, Mo., and Rev. Amos Williams of Little Rock, Ark. and two grandchildren, Mildred and Dorothy Hicklin. The decedent had been a resident of this city for more than sixty years. She was an active worker in fraternal and charity organizations. Decedent was a teacher of the industrial school in the Y. M. C. A. building thirty-five years ago. She was a member of the first W. C. T. U. and the Springfield Benevolent society. She was first treasurer of the Lincoln Colored Home; a charter member of Estella chapter No. B. O. E. S. and a charter member of Mother of Tabernacle of State of Illinois. Decedent was a member of the Illinois State Historical society and a life member of St. Paul's A. M. E. church. She has been a reader of The Illinois State Journal for sixty-one years.

Obituary of Martha Hicklin²¹³

²¹⁰ *Journal*, November 16, 1922, p. 12.

²¹¹ *1870 Census*.

²¹² *Journal*, January 8, 1904, p. 6.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

11.4 Katy D. Moore



**11.4 Grave of Katy D. Moore
Date of Death: December 3, 1924**

11.5 Julia (nee Perkins) Taborn



**11.5 Grave of Julia (nee Perkins) Taborn
Date of Death: November 15, 1908**

Julia Perkins married Hardy R. Taborn on June 3, 1891, in Sangamon County, Illinois.²¹³ Julia died on November 15, 1908, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

²¹³ *Journal*, November 16, 1922, p. 12.

²¹⁴ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 006/0400.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



11.6 Catherine “Kate” and Edward Lee



11.6 Grave of Catherine “Kate” and Edward Lee
Date of Death: June 19, 1907
Date of Death: February 25, 1918²¹⁵

Catherine “Kate” Brown was born in 1869, the daughter of Henry (11.7) and Mary Ann Williams Brown. (11.8) She married Edward Lee. She died on June 19, 1907, and Edward on February 25, 1918. They are both buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

11.7 Henry Brown



11.7 Grave of Henry Brown
Date of Death: September 3, 1906

Henry Brown was born on April 17, 1823 in Raleigh, Halifax County, North Carolina. His father, Staten Jones, assumed the last name of Brown. Staten was a native of North Carolina, and died about 1824. Henry’s mother’s maiden name was also Brown and she was born in North Carolina.

²¹⁵ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 118 purchased by Edward Lee and Albert Morgan on June 20, 1907.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Henry moved with his parents to Ohio about 1835, and one year later to Rush County, Indiana. There at age fourteen he was bound to farm work for a Quaker family and assigned to the ordinary labors of the farm. He continued this until 1843, when, at the early age of twenty, he married Miss Roberts, who lived but about one year.

Brown studied to become a preacher and was licensed to preach about 1846. Mr. Brown was an African Methodist Episcopal Church pastor. He began an itinerant ministry in the A.M.E. church, walking from town to town in service to his congregation. Many times during his thirty-seven years of active church work, he was refused meals and lodging because of his race. On a boat trip from Quincy to Cairo, Illinois, the captain did not allow Brown to dine with the other passengers. Declining to argue, he instead knelt and prayed: If God intended more equitable treatment for blacks than was being applied to him, would God prevent the boat from further trips. The vessel reached Cairo but never made the return journey. He was a faithful and constant laborer in the Lord's vineyard, his ministry during which time many souls have been led out of darkness into the light of Christ.

In 1847 at Paris, Illinois, Henry Brown met Mrs. Mary Ann King, an 18 year-old widow. She was the daughter of Allen Williams, a wealthy gentleman of that place. They became engaged as the result of their first meeting, and were married a few weeks later on October 23, 1848 at the residence of Mary's parents in Paris, Illinois. They resided in Paris, Illinois until 1855, and then moved to Springfield.

Except for four years residence at Galena and Quincy, Henry made Springfield his home at 1530 East Mason Street. In both Quincy and Springfield, Brown helped slaves escaping to the north on the Underground Railroad. On one occasion, he reportedly gave his own coat and vest to a poor black man. Of immense physical stature, Brown stood 6' 3" and weighed 250 pounds.

Brown was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln and served him in various capacities until he went to Washington as President. Lincoln's remains were brought back to Springfield in May 1865, and Rev. Brown was summoned by telegram from Quincy to Springfield. He and another local minister, Rev. W. C. Trevan, led Mr. Lincoln's old family horse "Bob" in the funeral procession²¹⁶ Shown in the photograph attending the horse are the Reverend Henry Brown, to the left or rear of the horse, and the Reverend Trevan on the right or front of the horse.

In 1871 in Chicago, Brown built the Bethel Church, borrowing funds from Democratic politician and future mayor Carter H. Harrison. Brown later became pastor of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin A.M.E. Church. His final active ministry was in Avondale, Illinois, where an accident in 1894 left him an invalid.

In 1881, Henry Brown was pastor of the A.M.E. Church at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and resided in Springfield.²¹⁷ The 1887 Springfield City Directory lists him as a minister, residing at 300 North 10th.²¹⁸

Rev. Henry Brown died at his Springfield residence on September 3, 1906, at age eighty-three and was buried in the Colored Section at Oak Ridge Cemetery, across the way from the Lincoln tomb.²¹⁹

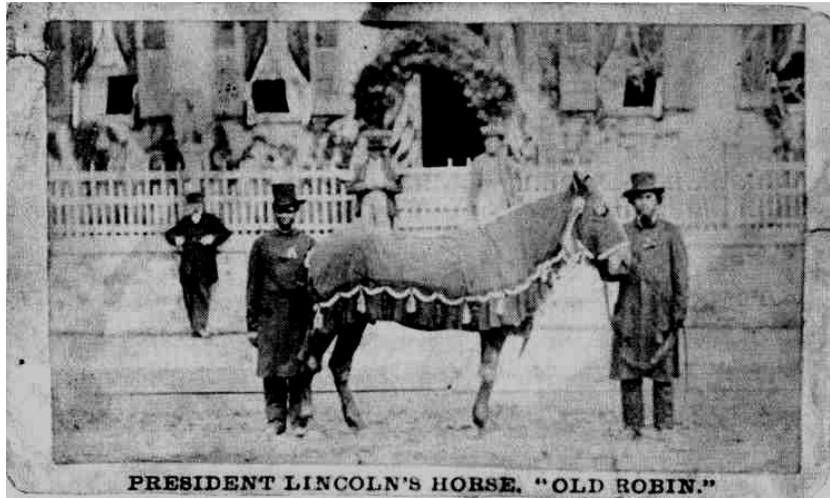
²¹⁶ *1881 History*, p. 736. *William Ray Wood*, pp. 1-2.

²¹⁷ *1881 History*, p. 736.

²¹⁸ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 118 purchased by Edward Lee and Albert Morgan on June 20, 1907.

²¹⁹ Lot 118, Block 5, *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, 1441 Monument Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62702.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



Frederick W. Ingmire's May 1, 1865 Photographs Of Lincoln's Horse "Old Robin"
With Rev. Henry Brown on left and Rev. Trevan on right²²⁰

NEGRO EMPLOYED BY LINCOLN DEAD

Rev. Henry Brown Expires At Home In This City.

Was Man of Massive Build and With Rev. W.C. Trevan Led Lincoln's Horses In Martyred President's Funeral Cortège—Aged Divines Name Connected Inseparably With History of Church Work Among Colored Race of Springfield.

Brown—Died at 6:25 p.m. Monday, September 23, 1906 at his residence, 1530 East Mason Street, Rev. Henry Brown, aged 83 years, 4 months and 16 days. The funeral arrangements have not yet been completed and will be announced later.

Mr. Brown's name was connected inseparably with the history of church work among the colored race in this city and state. For the past thirty years he has resided in this city, and for more than fifty years his life and interests has been identified with the growth of Springfield.

Henry Brown was born in Halifax County, N.C., April 17, 1823. At the age of nine he moved with his parents to Ohio and a year or two later to Indiana where he grew to manhood. Soon after reaching his majority he was licensed to preach and while in the line of his duty he met Mrs. Mary Ann King at Paris, Ill., whom he married Oct. 23, 1848.

Shortly after the marriage he moved to Paris, Ill., living there until 1855, when he came to Springfield and went to work for Abraham Lincoln, then a rising lawyer of the Springfield bar. Mr. Brown soon joined the active ministry and began a life of itinerant work in the A.M.E. church. He kept up this active work for thirty-seven years. While following the line of his duty he endured many privations in those early days. Often he walked from city to city or from village to village over the circuit that constituted his work. He was a man of immense physique, being six feet, three inches in height and weighing 250 pounds, a fact that enabled him to withstand many hardships to which a less hardy man would have succumbed. In those early days, it was not an easy matter for a stranger to secure accommodations, especially if he was colored. Many time Mr. Brown was forced to eat the scanty meal that was passed out to him upon the porch amid the falling snow and biting winds of winter.

While traveling on a boat from Quincy to Cairo, he was prevented from taking seat at the table with the remainder of the passengers. He declined to make any trouble about the matter, but rose from his seat, knelt down and prayed to God. He pleaded that if it were the will of the Heavenly Father that his race should be so treated, the God's will be done, but if it were not so, then he asked that God would not permit the boat to make another trip. The boat reached Cairo in safety but never made the return passage.

²²⁰ *Lance Ingmire Collection.*

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Many a poor slave escaping by means of the underground railway during the civil war, was upheld on his way by Mr. Brown, who acted as a "conductor" at the Quincy and Springfield stations. His idea of the golden rule was illustrated by one instance when he gave his own coat and vest to a poor fellow who was without one.

At Lincoln's funeral Mr. Brown occupied a prominent place. He had been telegraphed for to take part in the cortege and with Rev. W. C. Trevan led Lincoln's horses in the funeral procession. The two men attracted much attention as both were over six feet tall and of massive build. The badge which Mr. Brown wore at the funeral is still in possession of the family and was one of the keepsakes that the descendant prized very highly. While stationed in Chicago, prior to the fire of 1871, Mr. Brown built the Bethel church, borrowing the money to complete it from Carter H. Harrison.

His last active work was at Avondale, Ill., where he met with an accident, resulting in a broken leg and almost total loss of his bodily powers. Since that time, 1894, he had not been able to leave his premises or even walk about the house.

Mr. Brown's wife survives him. To Mr. Brown and his wife were born ten children, only two of whom survive, Mrs. Nannie Morgan of Chicago and Mrs. Kate Lee of this city.

11.8 Mary Ann (nee King Williams) Brown



11.8 Grave of Mary Ann (nee King Williams) Brown
Date of Death: January 14, 1917

Mary Ann King was born in 1829 in Tennessee, as were her parents. In 1847 at Paris, Illinois, Henry Brown met Mrs. Mary Ann King, an 18 year-old widow, and the daughter of Allen Williams, a wealthy gentleman of that place. They became engaged as the result of their first meeting, and were married a few weeks later on October 23, 1848 at the residence of Mary's parents in Paris, Illinois. They resided in Paris, Illinois until 1855, and then moved to Springfield.

They had the following children all of whom were born in Illinois: Louella Taylor, Nancy (Nannie Morgan), born on September 17, 1858, Sarah J., born in 1849, and W. M., born in 1848. Thomas T., a law student in the office of Sterling & Grout, and will probably be admitted to the bar at the May term of the Appellate Court, in 1882.

Katie Lee, and Edward.

Buried in Block 5, Lot 119, grave 4

In the 1910 Census, Mary was living in Chicago with her daughter, Nancy "Nannie" and son-in-law Albert Morgan.²²¹ Mary Ann Brown died on January 14, 1917, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.²²²

²²¹ 1910 Census.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

11.9 Nancy “Nannie” Brown Morgan



**11.9 Grave of Nancy “Nannie” Brown Morgan
Date of Death: July 17, 1920**

Nannie H. Brown was born on September 17, 1858, the daughter of Henry (11.7) and Mary Ann Brown. (11.8) The *1887 Springfield City Directory* lists her home at 300 North 10th. She married Albert Morgan in Sangamon County on October 17, 1897.²²³ In the 1910 Census, Nancy “Nannie” Brown Morgan was living in Chicago with her husband Albert Morgan and her mother, Mary Ann Brown.²²⁴ Nancy died on July 17, 1920, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.²²⁵

²²² Buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery on January 14, 1917 on Lot 118, Block 5, purchased by Edward Lee and Albert Morgan on June 20, 1907.

²²³ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 007/0187.

²²⁴ *1910 Census*.

²²⁵ *Oak Ridge Cemetery Records*, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 118 purchased by Edward Lee and Albert Morgan on June 20, 1907.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



11.10 Robert Blakeman



11.10 Grave of Robert Blakeman
Date of Death: October 3, 1900

Robert Blakeman was born in December 1872 in Kentucky. His parents were also born in Kentucky.²²⁶ Robert served in the Spanish American War. The 1900 Census lists Robert as a 25 year-old Black man living with his 47 year-old father who was born in Kentucky in July 1853. Also living in the household were Robert's 25 year-old brother and Sarah, his 5 year-old sister.²²⁷ The family lived at 622 North Second Street. Robert died on October 3, 1900, in the Philippines while in military service and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.²²⁸

A photograph of a newspaper clipping containing an obituary for Robert Blakeman. The text is somewhat faded and difficult to read but contains the following information:

Blakeman--The body of Lieut. Robert Blakeman, who died several months ago while he was serving in the Philippines, will arrive in the city tomorrow. The funeral will be held at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at the family residence, 622 North Second street, and at 3 o'clock at St. Paul's A. M. E. church. It will be strictly military in character. Rev. Mr. Sanders, pastor of the church, assisted by Noah Willard will conduct the services. Company C, Fifth regiment, the signal corps and Troop D, First Illinois cavalry, will attend the funeral. The interment will be made in Oak Ridge cemetery.

Obituary of Robert Blakeman

²²⁶ 1900 Census, Springfield Ward 3, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T623 343; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 91.

²²⁷ 1900 Census.

²²⁸ Oak Ridge Cemetery Records, Springfield, Illinois. Block 5, Lot 117 purchased by Louise Blakeman on July 6, 1901.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 11 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

ROW 12



View of Row 12 Looking South

There are five stones and three grave marked burials in Row 12. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are no registered burials in this row.



The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

12.1 Illegible Flat Stone in Ground



12.1 Illegible Flat Stone

12.2 Illegible Flat Stone in Ground



12.2 Illegible Flat Stone

12.3 Lizzie Toles



12.3 Grave of Lizzie Toles
Date of Death: August 21, 1903

Lizzie Nelson was born on July 10, 1854, the daughter of John and ___ Nelson. Lizzie married Charles Toles. Lizzie and Charles had four sons and three daughters. Lizzie died at her home at 1713 East Reynolds Street on August 21 (Obituary says 31), 1903, at age 46. She died of consumption.

Toles—Died, at 4 a. m., Monday, Aug. 31, 1903, at the family residence, 1713 East Reynolds street, of consumption, Mrs. Lizzie Toles, aged 46 years. The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the residence and at 2:30 o'clock at St. John's A. M. E. church. The interment will be made in Oak Ridge cemetery. The decedent is survived by her husband, Charles Toles, four sons and three daughters; her father, John Nelson, three brothers and two sisters.

Obituary of Lizzie Toles²²⁹

²²⁹ *Journal*, September 1, 1903, p. 6.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

12.4 Prudie Beck



12.4 Grave of Prudie Beck
Date of Death: July 20, 1903

Prudie Beck was born in Illinois on February 28, 1876.²³⁰ In 1900 she was a 22 year-old roomer. She died “at the family residence in Bissel on July 20, 1903, at age 26. She was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Beck—Died, at 1 p. m., Monday, July 20, 1903, at the family residence, in Bissel, of consumption, Prudie Beck, aged 26 years.
The funeral will be held, at 3 o'clock this afternoon at the Union Baptist church in this city. The interment will be in Oak Ridge cemetery.
Miss Beck formerly lived in Springfield.

Obituary of Prudie Beck²³¹

12.5 Dona W. Wright



12.5 Grave of Dona W. Wright
Date of Death: June 26, 1903

Dona W. Wright was born on January 16, 1831. She married R. N. Wright. She died on June 26, 1903, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

²³⁰ *1900 Census*, Springfield Ward 7, Sangamon, Illinois; Roll: T623 343; Page: 13B; Enumeration District: 102.

²³¹ *Journal*, July 21, 1903, p. 6.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 12 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

ROW 13



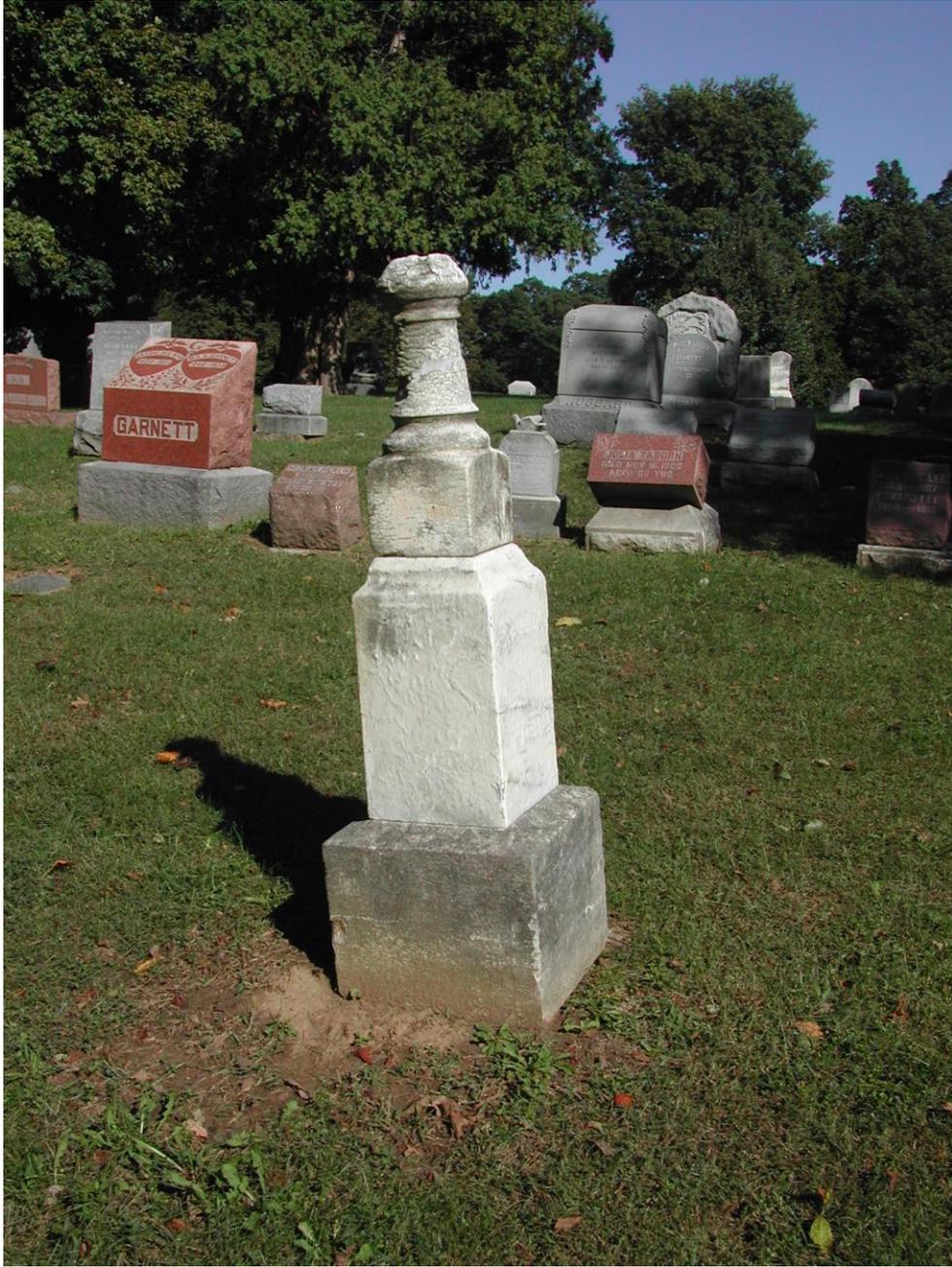
View of Row 13 Looking South

There are four stones and five grave marked burials in Row 13. The Oak Ridge Cemetery plat for this row that is pictured below gives the lot numbers for this row. When the Oak Ridge Cemetery burial register is matched against the lot numbers, there are no registered burials in this row.



The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

13.1 Illegible



13.1 Grave of Illegible
Date of Death: _____

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

13.2 Thomas and Hattie (nee Madlock) Manuel



13.2 Grave of Thomas and Hattie (nee Madlock) Manuel
Date of Death: July 20, 1903
Date of Death: _____

Thomas Manuel was born on September 25, 1858 in Maryland, where both of his parents were also born. The 1880 Census lists Thomas Manuel as a single, 23 year-old coal miner.²³² Thomas married Hattie Madlock on November 24, 1881, in Sangamon County.²³³ The 1887 *Springfield City Directory* lists Thomas as a miner, boarding at 402 N. 13th. Thomas died on July 20, 1903, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Hattie Madlock Manuel died on _____ and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

²³² 1880 Census,

²³³ Illinois Statewide Marriage Index.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

13.3 John H. Davis



13.3 Grave of John H. Davis
Date of Death: August 13, 1970

John H. Davis was born in Illinois on February 24, 1874. Lillie M. Jacobs married John H. Davis on November 18, 1896, in Sangamon County.²³⁴ John is listed in the 1900 Census as a 26 year-old black man living in Springfield.²³⁵ In 1926, John is listed as a clerk at the Post Office living at 1100 South Walnut. John died on August 13, 1970, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

13.4 Lillie M. (nee Jacobs) Davis



13.4 Grave of Lillie M. (nee Jacobs) Davis
Date of Death: April 10, 1901

Lillie M. Jacobs married John H. Davis on November 18, 1896, in Sangamon County.²³⁶ Lillie M. Jacobs Davis died on April 10, 1901, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

²³⁴ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index.*

²³⁵ *1900 Census.*

²³⁶ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index.*

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery



View of Row 13 Looking North

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

Documents Relating To African Americans Buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery

Negroes Celebrate Anniversary of Emancipation in British West Indies at Fair Ground

The August 5, 1859 *Journal* reported on the Springfield African American celebration of the anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in the West India colony in 1834.

CELEBRATION OF THE COLORED PEOPLE OF SPRINGFIELD

The colored people of this city, celebrated Monday the first of August, in commemoration of the emancipation of the 800,000 slaves men, women and children, in the West India colony, in 1834. They went out to the Fair ground, whereupon the following speeches were delivered:

Opening address--P. L. Donnegan; subject, "West India Emancipation." Mr. Donnegan made a good speech; one that did good to the audience and honor to himself.

The Rev. Mr. Myers was next called upon to occupy the stand; subject, "Sabbath Schools." His speech was very encouraging to parents and children.

After this the audience were dismissed till after refreshment. It was amusing to see every one take their baskets and retire on the blue grass, to partake of their pic-nic dinner. After which the audience was called on to rally around the stand to hear more speeches. Mr. Green, from Pa. next occupied the stand; subject, "Education." His speech was good, but not lengthy.

The Rev. G. Nelson from Belleville, next spoke; subject, "Temperance" His speech was animating and good. After which the whole audience was greatly deceived by a young man from Belleville, John W., Menard, Jr., who came to the stand. His voice is very strong and his manner impressive. Subject "American Slavery," which he painted in its darkest hues, and gave able remarks in defense of Liberty and equality. His speech was truly the best of the day; after which all retired with hearty cheers for Menard, Fred. Douglass, and others.

SPECTATOR²³⁷

African American Meeting Regarding Schools

On Monday, November 8, 1852, Springfield African Americans met and adopted a resolution saying "...we must speak in bold terms." The resolution opposed the Wood River Colored Baptist Association's proposal for separate, State-funded colored schools, and stated that they would not ask for state funded support for separate, colored schools. They asserted "That we, as a portion of the colored population, representing its claims, feel a deep, very deep interest, in our schools, and think it the only sure way to redeem ourselves from the bondage we are now in, sympathize with our race, and will do every thing that is in our power to educate our children by our exertions, and without the boldness to ask aid from the people of the State." The resolution was signed by 20 Springfield African American men.

Springfield, Nov. 8, 1852.

At a meeting of the colored citizens of this city, on the 8th instant, after having deliberated over the matter concerning our interests, common schools, etc. had occasion to notice the following, which we must speak of in bold terms; and which, after a vote was taken, was unanimously adopted:

The undersigned having just noticed an article written for the paper entitled, the "Western Citizens," by the "Wood River Colored Baptist Association," and also the Minutes of the same, wish to make the following reply:

Whereas the "Wood River Colored Baptist Association," having met at Jacksonville, Illinois, devised ways and means for the purpose of establishing a system of common school education, under the cloak of the colored people of the State of Illinois;

We, as a portion of the colored people of this State, in Springfield, do not desire any such system of common school education, under the name of one distinct sect or denomination; nor will we join in with it; nor give our support to it; but will do every thing that is in our power to indemnify ourselves against any of the above proceedings that may have been conjured up in this association;

That we deem it an injury to our present established schools, and that it will hinder the energy of those who are willing to aid, and have already aided in the support of our respective schools; and that we do not wish to give our aid in any measure that will hinder our progress that has already begun;

That we, as a portion of the colored population, representing its claims, feel a deep, very deep interest, in our schools, and think it the only sure way to redeem ourselves from the bondage we are now in, sympathize with our race, and will do every thing that is in our power to educate our children by our exertions, and without the boldness to ask aid from the people of the State;

²³⁷ *Journal*, August 5, 1859, p. 3, cl. 1.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

And that in examining the Minutes of the Association, we notice an article proposing to establish a press, which will be attached to the Institution, and put into operation as soon as the amount of funds necessary for its support can be raised. In regard to this we can say, that it reminds us of the bill which was handed into the Legislature two years ago--coming, in part, from the same source; and consequently we do not feel willing to embark in any such enterprise; ner shall we.

After reading the above, what patriot, as he is called, can enlist in the resolutions which that Association have gotten up, without the consent of any persons but themselves?

James Reynolds,	David Callyhan,
Gilbert Johnson,	Isaiah Chambers,
Michael Millington	Wm. McCoslin,
John Handsom	J. W. Hill,
Aaron Dyre, (Dyer)	A. J. Petete,
John Lee,	Spencer Donnigan,
Andrew Broadwaters,	James Hendrix,
William Lee,	Wm. Donnigan,
Patterson Bannister,	George Burras,
Benjamin Williams,	James Blanks. ²³⁸

COLORED SCHOOL.

Whereas the people of color in this place desirous of educating their children, and finding themselves too weak in point of numbers to sustain a school permanently amongst them, therefore we, the Trustees of this the Colored School, in view of our weakness, propose giving a PUBLIC SUPPER, in aid of this School, on Thursday, the 20th of this month, at the Colored Baptist Church, in this city. We have appointed a committee of females to solicit donations among our white friends towards making the Supper, and we hope that their claims will not be disregarded.

Thomas Cox,	James Blanks,
Jno. Jackson,	Wm. Baker,
Wm. H. Butler,	Aaron Dyer,
H. W. Baylor,	S. S. Ball. ²³⁹

Teacher Sought for "Colored School"

An 1855 Illinois law required that in townships with African American residents, the school taxes paid by them be used for "colored children."²⁴⁰ On April 13, 1855, the *Journal* reported that Landen C. Coleman., a 25 year-old African American Springfield shoemaker,²⁴¹ and M. Donnegan, a _____, as Trustees of the Springfield Colored School, sought a teacher for the colored school. Applicants were to be made at Coleman's, probably his shoe shop in the 200 block of South Sixth Street--one door east of the American House at the southeast corner of Sixth and Adams Streets.

Presley L. Donnegan Petitions Legislature Concerning School Tax for Colored Schools

On January 11, 1853, Presley L. Donnegan and other Springfield African Americans petition the Illinois legislature asking that African Americans be exempted from the school tax and assuring the legislature that African Americans would "sustain their own schools."

...divisions within the ranks of the blacks occurred on the issues of whether they should pay a school tax and, if so, whether the tax should be returned to them and for what purpose it should be used. Three schooling petitions from blacks or blacks and whites were presented in the General Assemblies of 1853 and 1855. The first, from Presley L. Donegan and other blacks of Springfield, presented on January 11, 1853, prayed that the blacks be exempted from the school tax and assured the legislators that the blacks would then "sustain" their own schools.²⁴²

The legislature took no action on the petition.

²³⁸ *Journal*, November 11, 1852, p. 3, c.1.

²³⁹ *Journal*, June 14, 1850, p. 3, cl. 1.

²⁴⁰ *Quarles*, p.27.

²⁴¹ *1860 United States Census*, p. 185.

²⁴² *The Black Struggle for Public Schooling in Nineteenth-Century Illinois*, Robert L. McCaul, Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, Illinois, 1987, p. 23.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

School Teacher Wanted

Coleman and M. Donnegan, trustees, desire to employ a teacher to teach a colored school. A competent teacher, will be well paid. Apply to L. Coleman, one door east of American House.²⁴³

Negro Meeting on Liberia Question at Clinton Hall

On February 12, 1858, Landen C. Coleman, a 28 year-old African American Springfield shoemaker, was Chairman of a meeting of colored citizens of Springfield held at Clinton Hall²⁴⁴ to consider the Liberia question.²⁴⁵ The resolution is an eloquent statement of the beliefs of most of Springfield's African Americans. The author remains unknown.

Pursuant to notice given, there was a meeting of colored citizens at Clinton Hall, for the purpose of considering the Liberia question.

The meeting opened by prayer.

On motion, L. Coleman was called to the Chair.

On motion, G. (Gilbert) Johnson was appointed Secretary.

On motion, resolved that there be a committee appointed to draw up a series of resolution for this meeting.

The house now being called to order, and the Chairman stating the object of our meeting together was to make known our wants, and that if there was any gentleman who wished to address the house, could now have an opportunity of doing so.

After which there was several addresses from several distinguished gentlemen.

After which, the committee returned and reported.

Whereas, the "Illinois State Colonization Society" has, at its last meeting in this city (Springfield) expressed the determination to ask the Legislature of this State for pecuniary assistance in removing the people of color from the State and whereas, it is also stated in the proceedings of said Society, that "some of the most intelligent and enterprising of the people of color in the State of Illinois desire the assistance of the Colonization Society, to enable them to remove to Liberia or some other part of Africa" therefore, be it resolved by the colored people of Springfield, assembled in public meeting to take this subject into consideration:

That we deem this a suitable occasion to express our views and make known our feeling upon this subject.

That after careful inquiry, we have been unable to ascertain than any intelligent man of color, having the confidence of the people here assembled, either desires to remove to Africa, or requires aid for such an enterprise.

That we cannot regard the "Illinois State Colonization Society," as a charitable institution, deserving the sympathy and support of the Christian public, or as a public benefit, for the support of which it is the duty of the Legislature to tax the good people of this State, in as much as we are not aware of any benefit which it is calculated to bestow, either upon the State at large or upon the colored people particularly; with all due submission to the superior wisdom of the gentlemen who have organized and who manage the Colonization society, we cannot perceive what benefit it will be to the State of Illinois to remove from it the five or ten thousand laborers composing our colored population. The State needs laborers to cultivate its fields and to perform various other services, and we are both able and willing to work. We also believe that the colored people of this State are, in general, as industrious and inoffensive a population as can anywhere be found. We do not interfere with other people, and only ask that we may be let alone, and simply protected in our "inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as are other citizens of the State. We have no desire to exchange the broad prairies, fertile soil, healthful climate and Christian civilization of Illinois, for the dangerous navigation of the wide ocean, the tangled forests, savage beasts, heathen people and mismatched shores of Africa. We also believe that the operations of the Colonization Society are calculated to excite prejudices against us, and to impel ignorant or ill disposed persons to take measures for our expulsion from the land of our

²⁴³ *Journal*, April 13, 1855, p. 2, cl. 5.

²⁴⁴ Francis Clinton, a confectioner and baker, operated a store on the north side of the public square in 1858. He bought the west half of the east half of Lot 7 in Block 11 on September 9, 1843. His three story building would have been the sixth one west from the corner of Washington and Sixth. Research of Curtis Mann, SVC.

²⁴⁵ *Journal*, February 18, 1858, p. 3, cl. 2. See "Teacher Sought For 'Colored School'" at page 182 for more information on Coleman.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

nativity, from our country and from our homes. We, therefore, beg the Legislature and the people of this State, that they will lend no countenance to such a project.

That the action of those southern States which are now taking measures for the re-opening of the African slave trade, and the importation of tens of thousands of hopeless victims, torn from their homes by the slave trader or by those whom he has excited to make war upon each other, to engage with him in his foul traffic, affords the clearest evidence of the mistake of those who believe that the expulsion of the colored race would be a benefit to this country. If our labors are so valuable as slaves, will they be less so as freemen? Why should the northern States go to such trouble and expense to send us from the country, when the south is so bent upon the introduction of Africans, as to propose the abrogation of all laws, human and Divine, by which this traffic is forbidden? We, therefore, most earnestly appeal to our white fellow men, if we may not call them fellow citizens, in the northern States, not to gratify the inhuman slave dealer of the south, by oppressing us or expelling us from their borders, so as to give countenance to those who would represent us as unworthy of the privileges and blessings of freemen.

That the colored people of this State should earnestly petition the Legislature at its next session to give them greater security in their persons and property, than they now have under the laws of this State, and especially to give them the benefits of common schools for which they are now taxed, without having any provision made for their instruction.

That they respectfully submit to their consideration of the capitalists, farmers and house keepers of Illinois, whether a change of the laws of this State, so as to allow of the free settlement of people of color in the State, would not be favorable to the improvement of the State, by making labor cheaper and more abundant.

That we do for ourselves, and in behalf of our colored brethren throughout the United States, most earnestly protest against the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Dred Scott, not only because said Scott and his family, were by that decision most unjustly doomed to slavery, but also because said decision misrepresents, (especially in the language of Chief Justice Taney,) the great charter of American liberty, the Declaration of Independence and the spirit of the American people, as well as the Constitution of the United States. We take that Declaration as the Gospel of freedom; we believe in its great truth, "that all men are created equal, endowed with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." We know ourselves to be men, and we claim our rights as such under this "_____ Declaration" of the Old Thirteen. We also claim the right of citizenship in this, the country of our birth. We were born here, and here we desire to die and to be buried. We are not African. The best blood of Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky and other States, where our brethren are still held in bondage by their brothers, flows in our veins. We are not, therefore, aliens, either in blood or in race, to the people of the country in which we were born. Why then should we be disfranchised and denied the rights of citizenship in the north, and those of human nature itself in the south? We here, most solemnly protest against this decision of the Supreme Court, as designed to rob us of the inherent rights of humanity, as well as of the soil upon which we were born and to countenance the tyrannical and odious doctrine that we "have no rights" which the white man is bound to respect, and that one may be justly and lawfully reduced to slavery by another.

On motion, the preamble and resolutions were adopted.

Committee--P. L. Donnegan, Chairman, S. Donnegan, N. (Nathaniel) B. Smallwood, A. (Albert) W. Co(l)lier and T. (Thornton) Coleman
Adjourned.²⁴⁶

In 1843 the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (African American Methodist Episcopal) was organized by Rev. Spencer Donnegan at the home of John Wesley McDaniel on Sangamon Avenue on what is now the site of the State Fair grounds. After a year, the place of worship was moved to Klein and Carpenter Streets and then to a log cabin at Fourth and Reynolds Streets (Fourth and Mason Streets). Rev. Spencer Donnegan was a barber and shaved Lincoln many times.

Fire Destroys William Fleurville and Spencer Donnegan's Barber Shop

The January 29, 1847, *Register*, reported that fire had destroyed the City Hotel and one or two tenements adjoining. This was the site of William Fleurville's barber shop which was consumed by the fire.

²⁴⁶ *Journal*, February 18, 1858: p. 3, cl 2.

The Colored Section: Oak Ridge Cemetery

FIRE.—A fire broke out on Sunday morning last in the City Hotel stables, which were consumed, together with fourteen valuable horses and a cow. Thence the flames extended to the grocery store of B. F. Jewett, which was destroyed together with the billiard saloon of William Radford on the second floor. It then communicated with the City Hotel and one or two tenements adjoining, all of which were totally destroyed. But for the extraordinary efforts of citizens and strangers, the fire would have extended and the destruction of property have been incalculable. The entire loss is estimated at \$12,000.

January 29, 1847 *Register* Reports on Fire Destroying William Fleurville and Spencer Donagan's Barber Shop²⁴⁷

William Fleurville and Spencer Donagan's Barber Shop Removal and Loss of William Fleurville's Violin

In the February 5, 1847, *Register*, William Fleurville and Spencer "Donagin," advertised that having their shop burnt at the recent fire, they had removed to a room two doors south of Mr. Bunn's store. The ad also reported that William Fleurville had lost a violin in the fire and would be glad to have it returned.

BARBER SHOP REMOVED.
WM. FLOURVILLE & S. DONAGIN, having their shop burnt at the recent fire, have removed to a room two doors south of Mr. Bunn's store, where they hope their old customers, friends, and strangers will call and be waited upon.
Wm. Flourville lost a Violin, which was saved from the flames, and would be glad to have it returned.
February 5, '47.

Register Advertisement Announcing William Fleurville and Spencer Donagan's Barber Shop Removal and Loss of William Fleurville's Violin²⁴⁸

²⁴⁷ *Register*, January 29, 1847, p. 3, cl. 3.

²⁴⁸ *Register*, February 12, 1847, p. 3, cl. 7.

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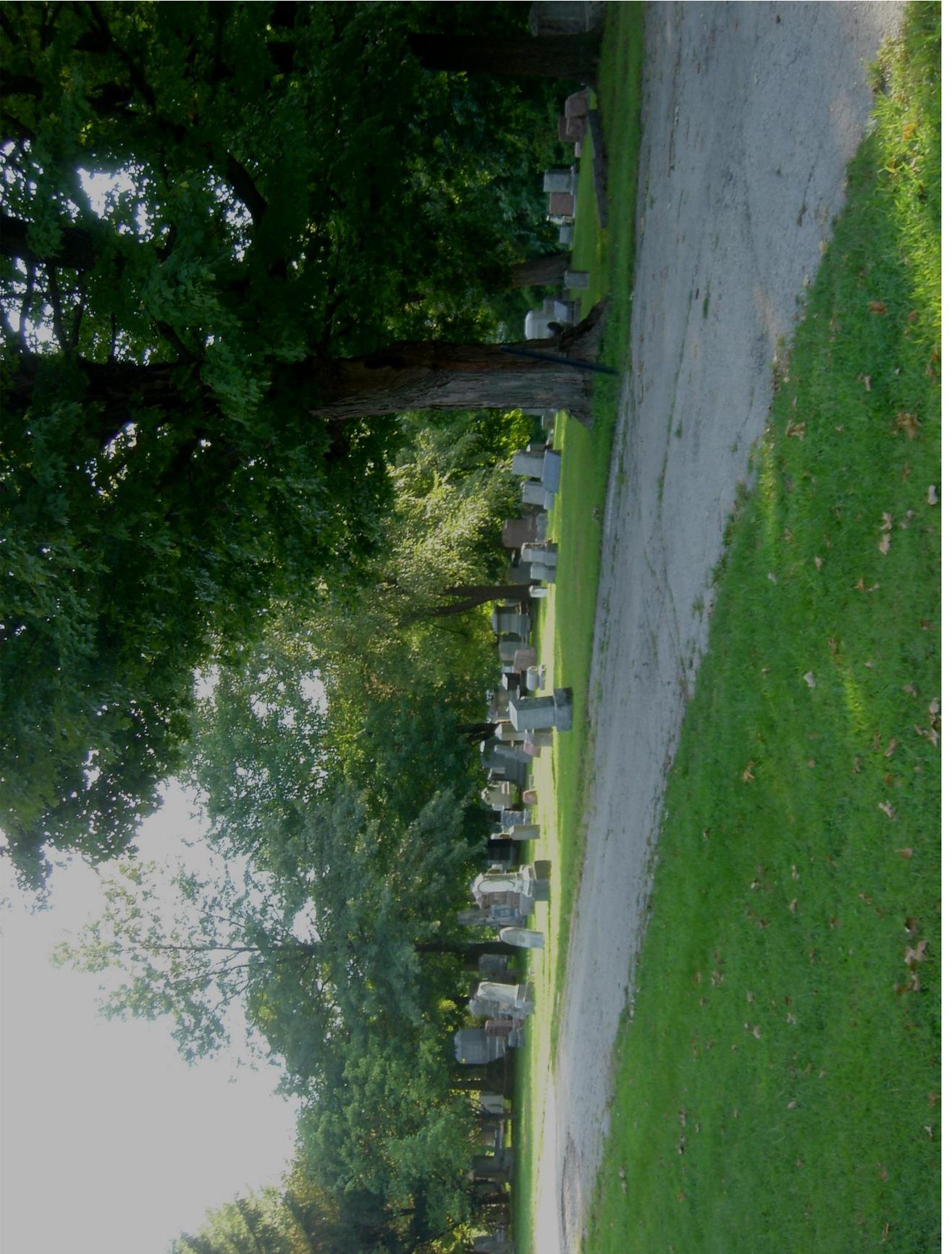
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JANE FELLUM
Born [illegible]
Died Nov. 9, 1867
[illegible text]

BELL WATKINS
[illegible]
WIFE