

OAK GROVE CEMETERY

ESTABLISHED APRIL, 1847

CONTAINS NEARLY 100 ACRES

RESTING PLACE FOR MANY EARLY SETTLERS

IT IS OF HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

TO OUR NUMEROUS VISITORS

A FEW OF THE MANY SITES OF INTEREST ARE LISTED

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

A NUMBERED MAP IS INCLUDED

INFORMATION COMPILED FROM:

FAMILY MEMBERS

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PADUCAHANS IN HISTORY - FRED G. NEUMAN

THE STORY OF PADUCAH - FRED G. NEUMAN

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

MONUMENTS

1. American Legion Lot Old Section (Myrtle Ave.)

Paducah City Ordinance of 8/6/1928 set apart this space to perpetually remain a burying ground for honorably discharged military veterans under the approval of the proper executive officer of Chief Paduke Post Number 31 of the American Legion.

2. Dr. Dennis Henry Anderson(10/4/1952) New Sec. 4 Lot 32 (Hank St.)

Kentucky's outstanding Negro educator, he founded what is now West Kentucky Technical College. Educated at Lane College, Jackson, TN, he came to Paducah in 1909 determined to give Negroes proper educational opportunities. Working tirelessly not only on the construction, but the soliciting of funds, he founded West Kentucky Industrial School in December, 1909. After nine years, through his efforts it became Kentucky Junior College—a state-operated school. Twenty years later he attained his dream when it became a complete vocational school.

3. Della Barnes(6/27/1897) Old Sec. 9 Lot 136 (Myrtle & Rest Ave.)

A life-size statue of Italian marble was erected by her father to express his grief over her tragic death. Many rumors abound, but her obituary read that she accidentally took an overdose of morphine thinking it was calomel. Vandals have taken their toll of this once beautiful memorial.

4. Judge William S. Bishop(1839-1902) Old Sec. 10 Lot 155 (Silent Ave.)

He was a Confederate veteran taken captive near Vicksburg in 1865. Returned to west Kentucky to teach school and serve as Common Pleas Judge and Circuit Judge of the First District. Thought to be the "Old Judge Priest" in Irvin S. Cobb's short stories.

5. Charles Ivo Boyd(1894-1962) Old Sec. 13 Lot 199 (Charity Ave.)

A funeral director in Paducah and Mayfield for many years until his retirement in the 1950's. A recognized civic leader, he was best known in Paducah for his political activities. He organized the Paducah Civic League.

6. Linn Boyd(1800-1859) Old Sec. 7 Lot 110 (Peace Ave.)

At less than 18 years of age, he was a member of the commission which dealt with the Chickasaw Indians for the land we now know as the Purchase Area. A loved and respected congressman from Kentucky, he served as Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1851-1855. Boyd County in eastern Kentucky is named for him.

7. Sara Smith Campbell(1890-1965) Old Sec. 16 Lot 244 (Mercy Ave.)

Affectionally known as the "Betsy Ross of Paducah" because she designed the banner officially adopted as the City Flag in April of 1961. The flag waves in front of City Hall, stands in the city commission chambers and is used in police and fire department ceremonies. She led in a drive to have the Market House converted into a cultural center.

8. Irvin S. Cobb(1876-1944) Old Section (Myrtle Ave.)

This Paducah native was a famed newspaper reporter and author of books, movie scripts and plays. He began his career with our local paper—later moved to New York and then to Hollywood. His humorous writings pay high tribute to Kentucky's proud folk.

9. Confederate Rest Old Sec. AA Lots 11 & 12 (walkway-Charity Ave. & Oak St.)

These lots donated by the General Council 3/6/1909 for United Confederate Soldiers or Veterans. This memorial was erected in May of 1910. Many other Confederate veterans are interred throughout the cemetery on family lots.

10. William T. DeBoe, Jr.(1912-1936) New Sec. 14 Lot 4 (Vanmeter St.)

Many people gathered at Smithland, KY, to witness the hanging of this young man. He was convicted of raping the wife of a Livingston County storekeeper. Reportedly, he was the last white man hanged in Kentucky.

11. Dollie—the Mule(2/25/1897) Old Sec. 1 Lot 12 (Faith Ave.)

Dollie was purchased after the Civil War to pull the hose carriage of the Fire Dept. When they changed to horse-power she was allowed to do hauling in Oak Grove, but at the sound of a fire alarm she would race up and down the avenues of the cemetery unless stopped by sheer force. She had served the City so faithfully that an exception was made to the Ordinances allowing her to be buried in Oak Grove.

12. Rev. George Washington Dupee(1827-1897) Old Sec. 24 Lot 374 (Faith Ave.)

The first black pastor of Washington Street Missionary Baptist Church, the oldest black church in western Kentucky. He organized the First District Association and was a founder of the General Association of Colored Baptists of Kentucky. This monument, a token of esteem and appreciation, was erected by Washington Street Baptist Church where he was pastor for 38 years.

13. Elks Rest B.P.O.E. #217 Old Sec. 48 Lot 1 (Myrtle Ave.)

14. Major Charles Ewell(1758-1830) Old Sec. 6 Lot 82 (Peace Ave.)

He is the only Revolutionary War veteran buried in Paducah. Born in Prince William County, Virginia, he moved his family west to Kentucky over the Appalachians in a covered wagon to claim a land grant from General George Washington. Four generations of the Ewell family are interred on this lot.

15. Mary Haley(1795-1811) Old Sec. 1 Lot 10 (Faith Ave.)

This is the oldest legible headstone found in Oak Grove Cemetery. We believe that her body and stone were moved from the old cemetery where City Hall now stands. We believe that many of the bodies in this Section were moved from there when Oak Grove was acquired.

16. **Albert Zertha Hamock(1891-1949) Old Sec. 23 Lot 354 (Silent Ave.)**

A mortician in Paducah from 1913 to 1949. He is prominently known as the preserver in 1928 of the drowning victim, Charlie Atkins, whose nickname is "Speedy". "Speedy", along with Mr. Hamock's widow, Velma, appeared on four national television stations.

17. **Francis A. Harrison(1844) Old Sec. 17 Lot 271 (Peace Ave.) No stone**

The first Postmaster of Paducah

18. **E. B. Jones(1832-1894) Old Sec. J Lot 88 (Behind American Legion Lot)**

Past Grand Master of Masons in Kentucky(1871-1872). Composed a Ritual entitled "Heroes of '76", which is used today by the National Sojourners, Inc., who erected this monument June 1, 1991.

19. **Fate Clifford Marable(1890-1947) Old Sec. 13 Lot 201 (Willow St.-near Faith Ave.)**

Pianist and band director from 1906 to 1940 on the Streckfus Steamboats plying the Mississippi River during the era of Dixieland jazz.

20. **Masonic Lot Paducah Lodge F. & A. M. Old Sec. 20 Lots 310 & 315 (Rest Ave.)**

21. **Verner Mason Mundy(2/13/1974) New Sec. 5 Lot 63 (Foreman St.)**

Educated at Oberlin College and the Cincinnati College of Mortuary. He came to Paducah in 1921 and operated a mortuary here for fifty years receiving Certificates of Merit from both Illinois and Kentucky. He was a World War I veteran and member of several fraternal organizations.

22. **Captain Elijah L. Murray(1795-1855) Old Sec. 21 Lot 323 (Rest Ave.)**

A system of marine ways patented by Capt. Murray, a master mechanic of St. Louis, brought Paducah into prominence as a boat-building and repair center. In 1853 the city granted E. Murray & Co. a contract calling for marine ways of eight sections capable of holding boats 350 feet in length. The ways were completed only months before the inventor's death.

23. **Fred G. Neuman(1893-1953) Old Sec. 5 Lot 69 (Rest Ave.)**

One of Paducah's most popular newspaper columnists. He wrote "Sidelights on Paducah" and similar features for 30 years. The author of "Story of Paducah", he was recognized as a foremost authority on Paducah history.

24. **Col. Edward Duman Nix(1861-1946) Old Sec. 48 Lot 11 (Myrtle Ave.-behind Elk's Rest)**

Not satisfied being a wholesale grocery salesman, he decided to go West. After being appointed the first United States Marshall of the Oklahoma Territory, he played a prominent part in clearing out Oklahoma's bad men in the 1890's. Among the famous outlaw groups he rounded up was the Dalton gang.

25. **Odd Fellows Lot Magnum Lodge I. O. O. F. Old Sec. 20 Lots 311-314 (Rest Ave.)**

26. **Dr. S. L. Polk(3/7/1967) Rushing Sec. 6 Lot 372 (Ford St.)**

Graduated from Lane College, Jackson, TN, in 1921 and from Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN, in 1925. Began his practice in Hickman, moving to Paducah in 1936. He practiced his profession for forty years and was a past president of the National Medical Association.

27. **Isaac M. Quigley(1856-1902) Old Sec. 6 Lot 490 (Peace Ave.)**

Studied law under his father, Quintus Q. Quigley, and was a prominent local attorney in practice with him for 25 years. Served one term in the state legislature. Appointed Chief Justice, he was the youngest to hold this highest judicial office in the State of Kentucky.

28. **Quintus Q. Quigley(1828-1910) Old Sec. 6 Lot 490 (Peace Ave.)**

Opened his law office in Paducah in 1851. He was one of the incorporators of Paducah in 1858 and its first City Attorney. Was very instrumental in Paducah becoming a railroad center. He pioneered in corporate counseling and was highly respected in all of western Kentucky. In 1867 built "The Angles", later to become the home of Vice President Alben Barkley.

29. **Dr. Reuben Saunders(1808-1891) Old Sec. 16 Lot 245 (Mercy Ave.)**

Credited with the discovery that hypodermic use of morphine-atropine halted cholera during the epidemic here in 1873. First to advocate fresh air for T. B. and pneumonia. Honored by Medical Associations in the United States and Europe. Was Irvin S. Cobb's grandfather. His son, Dr. John Bartlett Saunders, a renowned physician is buried beside him. John migrated to Honolulu where he did research on leprosy. He was personal physician to King of Hawaii when he died in 1873 at 33 years of age.

30. **John T. Scopes(1900-1970) Old Sec. 7 Lot 104 (Myrtle & Hope Ave.)**

In July, 1925, this teacher and Paducah native was tried in Dayton, TN, for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution to a biology class. The trial was referred to as the Scopes "Monkey Trial" and gained international attention. He was convicted and fined \$100.00. The play "Inherit the Wind" is based on this trial. The violated law was repealed in 1967.

31. **Henry Shelton(7/16/1889) Old Sec. 23 Lot 364 (Faith Ave.)**

He was drowned in his effort to save the life of a white child. This monument was erected by the white citizens of Paducah to commemorate his heroic death.

32. **Braxton Small(8/2/1868) Old Sec. 5 Lot 74 (Peace Ave.)**

He was named first County Clerk in 1825 and held this office for 33 years. His marriage to Grace Walters was the first one recorded in the town of Paducah. Their daughter, Adelaide, was the first girl's birth recorded in Paducah.

33. Tom – the Mule Old Sec. 23 Lot 356 (Silent Ave.)

Tom is a bit of a mystery. He may have pulled the wagons of the fire department, but we have no documented proof. Someone cared enough about him to have this very realistic marble marker made and placed here.

34. Charles K. Wheeler(1863-1933) Old Sec. 9 Lot 137 (Wheeler-Guthrie Maus.(Myrtle Ave.)

Graduating from law school at the age of 17, a special grant was enacted by the state Legislature making him "of age" in order to be admitted to the bar. Was a prominent Paducah attorney for 52 years and served 6 years in the United States Congress. Through his efforts as congressman, a gunboat was named the "U. S. S. Paducah".

35. Brian S. Duecker(1963-1991) New Sec. 13 Lot 355 (Stewart St.)

Paducah's "John Doe" was identified in June of 1999 through inquiries on the internet and fingerprints. He fell to his death after trying to hitch a ride on the outside of a Memphis-bound commuter plane at Barkley Regional Airport. Paducah authorities did all in their power to find his identity for nearly nine years. He was laid to rest here more than a year after his death. His service was attended by many people and flowers were kept on his grave by Paducahans. After much consideration, his family decided to leave him buried here where the people of Paducah had so lovingly remembered him after his tragic death.

36. George Langstaff(1830-1901) Old Sec. 8 Lot 128 (Rest Ave.)

Born in Mt. Holly, N. J. Valedictorian of the class of 1849 at Princeton University (then College of New Jersey). Came to Paducah about 1847 with other New Jersey families, who established the community of "Jersey" at the confluence of Island Creek and the Tennessee River. Founded Langstaff-Orm Lumber Company in 1854. Was long time Senior Warden of Grace Episcopal Church.

HISTORY OF OAK GROVE CEMETERY

Oak Grove Cemetery was established in 1847 with the purchase of 36 acres by the town's trustees for the price of \$3.00 an acre.

The community fathers, hoping to create a gracious and serene sanctuary, sent to Scotland for John Porteous, a master landscaper, to design the cemetery grounds. Mr. Porteous became so enamored with America that he sent word back to Scotland requesting his wife and children to join him in Paducah. The town, honoring Mr. Porteous' dedication, made him the first sextant and built his family a cottage where the gatehouse stands today.

Oak Grove soon became the final resting place for many Paducahans from the 1700's who had earlier been interred in the town's first burial site at 4th & Washington, where City Hall was later built. This cemetery, rich in history and state lore, is still serving the community today as it did in the early 1800's.

