Some Notable Persons
in
First Street Cemetery
of
Waco, Texas

Compiled
by
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All Saints Day 2009
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Foreword

My interest in First Street Cemetery began in the early 1990s when I located the grave marker for the Rev. William McKendree Lambdin which had been reported as missing. I was later asked to apply for and obtain an Official Texas Historical Marker for this minister as a project of the Commission on Archives and History of the Central Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church.

My latest interest in this cemetery began when reading that human bones were being found during the construction of the Texas Rangers’ Company F Headquarters building in the campground of Fort Fisher Park. I wondered why bones were being found on the land which for most of my life was a scenic campground. Then a friend told me of the existence of an 1869 map of Waco which I might find of interest. It was when I viewed this map and saw the distinct boundaries of the City, Masonic, and Odd Fellows’ cemeteries which comprise First Street Cemetery that I realized that what I knew as the campground of Fort Fisher Park was actually part of this historic cemetery. This observation led to my research with Dr. John Griggs into the history of the cemetery and notable persons who were buried there.

I am indebted to the authors and compilers of the many books and articles that were used to compose these brief sketches. I am sure that some errors exist in these sketches since different sources would sometimes have variations in the spelling of names and the dates of birth and death. I am also indebted to the numerous descendants who provided information about their relatives at the cemetery. Until I began this research, I did not know that some of my Selman and Davis relatives were also buried at the cemetery.

Appreciation is expressed to Mrs. J. L. Staton, Sr. and Mrs. Thos. R. Meredith who compiled the earliest known survey of First Street Cemetery in 1962. Appreciation is also expressed to Dr. John Griggs, Melvin Dotson, and Willard E. Brown, III for their help and encouragement during this very interesting and controversial research project, and to Andrea Anderson for her assistance with placing these sketches on the computer.
Dedicated

in honor of

John C. Griggs, Ph.D.,

Melvin Dotson,

and

Willard E. Brown, III

for preserving

the history of

First Street Cemetery
Mayor’s Message
Concerning
First Street Cemetery

“First street cemetery is owned by the city; the people who founded the city are buried there; it is in wretched condition, and I believe the city should put it in good condition and maintain it. We owe that much to the people who started the town of Waco.”

- Mayor J.H. Mackey

Waco Morning News
May 14, 1913
Some Notable Persons in First Street Cemetery of Waco, Texas

**Frank Adams**, 1865-1906. Husband of Emma Adams, 1857-1906. He was a member of the Knights of Tabor of the International Order of Twelve, an African-American fraternal organization.

**William M. Anderson**, 1831-1882. A native of Winchester, Virginia. He came to Waco ca. 1855, and he was a pioneer undertaker and furniture dealer. A member of Waco Lodge No. 92, A.F. and A.M.

**Clementine Jones Arnold**, 1815-1855. Wife of Bentley D Arnold, ca. 1804-1868. Moved to Waco ca. 1851. In 1855, Bentley D Arnold opened a brick yard in East Waco. In 1858, he was elected a county commissioner. He served as the second deacon of First Baptist Church of Waco, and he served as a member of its first building committee in 1854. He was an officer in the 1850s of Waco Lodge No. 92, A.F. and A.M. and a trustee of Waco School District, No.1.


**William Dawson Bedwell**, 1821-1867. A native of Alabama. Son of James and Lucy Grimes Bedwell. Husband of Sarah Elizabeth Johnson Bedwell, 1831-1884. The William Dawson Bedwell family was living in Clarke County, Mississippi in 1850, and moved to Waco in the early 1850s. W. D. Bedwell was a planter and a Confederate veteran. He served as a McLennan County commissioner from 1856-1858 and was a member of Waco Lodge No. 92, A. F. and A. M.

**Walter Wyatt Bennett**, 1819-1860. A native of Christian County, Kentucky. Husband of Mary Short Bennett. They moved from Kentucky to Fayette County, Texas ca. 1855. A pioneer of Bold Springs in McLennan County. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey by Staton and Meredith.)

**Margaret Jane Keister Beville**, 1844-1893. A native of Blacksburg, Virginia. On Dec. 24, 1867, she married Dr. Alexander Archer Beville, 1841-1930. The Beville family moved to Waco in 1870. Dr. A. A. Beville was Waco’s first dentist, and he was a charter member of Austin Avenue Methodist Church in 1901. Their son, Dr. Alexander Jacob Beville, returned to Waco to practice dentistry after his graduation from the Dental Department of the University of Maryland. She was buried in Odd Fellows’ Cemetery. (Her grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)
**Burwell J. Blankenship**, ca. 1843-1873. He served in the 6th regiment of the Texas Cavalry during the Civil War and later served as a deputy sheriff of McLennan County.

**Gottfried C. Blankenstein**, 1822-1900. A native of Germany. Husband of Dorothea Herbst Blankenstein. Served in the German Army from 1842-1845, and was a saddler. Immigrated to the United States in 1870.


**Mary Bostwick**, 1816-1882. A native of Virginia. Wife of Harmon Gilbert Bostwick, Sr., 1814-1890. She lived many years in Illinois before moving to Texas in 1854, and settled in Waco in 1866. Harmon Gilbert Bostwick, Sr. was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. She was later re-interred in Oakwood Cemetery.

**John William Brinegar, Sr.**, 1851-1913. A native of Missouri. He brought his wife Sarah Hill and three children to Waco in 1881. A native of Kentucky, Sarah Hill died in Waco in 1889. He later married Julia Sanderson in 1890. His gravesite has a large granite ledger noting the history of his family and descendants.

**Matilda Brown**, 1802-1888. A native of Louisiana and a black midwife. (Her grave marker was found during the excavations for the new Texas Rangers’ Company F Headquarters building in 2008.)

**Robert Brown**, 1873-1906. He was a member of the Knights of Tabor of the International Order of Twelve, an African-American fraternal organization. His grave marker mentions his sister Maggie Patterson, born April 2, 1869.

**William Calmes Buck**, 1790-1872. A native of Virginia. He was ordained in the Baptist Church in 1812, and he was a veteran of the War of 1812. Served as editor of the *Western Pioneer and Baptist Banner*. Served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Louisville, Kentucky. Did missionary work among the Confederate soldiers at his own expense. Came to Waco in 1866. Was a Latin, Greek, and Hebrew scholar.

**Willis Field Buck**, 1845-1888. A native of Kentucky. Son of Rev. William C. Buck. He served in 42nd Alabama regiment during the Civil War. In 1867, he graduated from Louisville Medical College. Was McLennan County physician with Dr. Halbert in 1877. Married Nannie Harrison, 1848-1888, daughter of Dr. Richard Harrison. A member of Waco Lodge No. 92, A.F. and A.M.
George Ewing Burney, 1814-1878. A native of Tennessee. Husband of Sarah A. Blair Burney. Elected to the Arkansas legislature. In 1847, he migrated to Texas and settled in Milam County. Elected to the Texas legislature in 1848, he introduced the bill creating McLennan, Bell, and Falls counties. In 1850, became a resident of Waco, and later served in the Texas senate. He introduced bills granting charters to Waco Bridge Co., Waco Tap Railroad, and Waco Manufacturing Co.


Lankford “Lank” N. Cassaday, 1836-1879. A native of Knox County, Tennessee. Husband of M. Laura Blankenship Cassaday, 1848-1876. They married on January 17, 1867 in McLennan County. He was granted a license to retail spirituous liquors in McLennan County in October 1865. He was the proprietor of the Bar and Ten-Pin Alley, a saloon on Bridge Street near the Waco suspension bridge. A Confederate veteran, he served in the 19th regiment of the Texas cavalry. A member of Waco Lodge No. 92, A.F. and A.M.

Mary M. Cassaday, ca. 1855-1882. Wife of W. J. Cassaday. William J. Cassaday was a 19th century Waco photographer, and his studio was located at 122 ½ S. 3rd St. in the 1890s.

W.D. Chambers, 1833-1892. A native of Mississippi. Graduated from Louisville College of Law in Kentucky and entered the practice of law at Waco in 1853. Member of the 21st regiment, Texas Volunteer Cavalry. He served as mayor of Waco from 1860 to 1861, and later served as district judge in Waco in 1870.

John Christianson, ca. 1838-1888. First tailor in Waco. In 1876, his store was located at 28 ½ Austin Avenue. He was a member of the Scandinavian Lutheran Church. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)


William Swan Clinton, 1827-1912. A native of Hardeman County, Tennessee. Son of Robert and Sarah Conrad Clinton. Came to McLennan County in 1856. He was a Confederate veteran and served as deputy sheriff of McLennan County in 1866. A member of the Old Settlers’ Association. A member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Albert Cloyes, ca. 1811-1853. A native of Massachusetts. Husband of Nancy Elizabeth Jones Cloyes, 1821-1894. Moved to the South Bosque community ca. 1846. He was a member of the first grand jury.

Catherine Minerva Murdock Coates, 1846-1869. A native of Tallapoosa County, Alabama. Married George T. Coates in 1861 in McLennan County.

George T. Coates, 1838-1891. A native of Tennessee. Son of William C. and Susan Palmer Coates. In 1861, he married Catherine Minerva Murdock in McLennan County. After her death, he married Arabella Frost in McLennan County in 1871. Arabella Frost Coates, 1851-1929, was a daughter of J. P. and Mary Thurman Frost, and she is buried in Oakwood Cemetery. George T. Coates was a Confederate veteran and a pioneer of Waco.


Corinne E. Cornibe, 1857-1884. A native of Louisiana. Daughter of Mrs. E. J. Drake, ca. 1832-1878. Wife of Ernest J. Cornibe, born ca. 1841 in Louisiana. Ernest J. Cornibe was a merchant in dry goods, clothing, boots, and shoes. He was a private in the Louisiana Cavalry during the Civil War and a member of the Pat Cleburne Camp.

John L. Cornish, 1828-1884. A native of Alabama. Husband of Eliza B. Cornish, 1839-1923. During the Civil War, Dr. John L. Cornish served as an assistant surgeon for the 18th Texas Infantry and the 13th Texas Cavalry. In the 1870s and early 1880s, he was a druggist and dry goods merchant in East Waco. (Although there is a grave marker for him at First Street Cemetery, it is believed that he was later re-interred at Oakwood Cemetery.)
Eliza Crisp, 1817-1873. Wife of W. H. Crisp, died 1875 in Dallas, Texas. The Crisp family immigrated to the United States from England and settled in Georgia in 1845. She was a well known actress and a member of the Crisp troupe. Her husband was the manager of the Athenaeum, Mobile, and Montgomery theatres of Georgia. Their son, Charles Frederick Crisp, was appointed solicitor general of the southwestern judicial circuit in 1872, and he later served as the Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives.

James F. Davis, 1823-1885. A native of Tennessee. Husband of Brunette Elizabeth Selman, a daughter of John Hunter Selman, 1804-1841. Studied law under N. S. Brown, Governor of Tennessee. Came to Waco in 1850, and entered the practice of law in 1851. Elected chief justice of McLennan County in 1852. Served on the 1856 building committee for a new McLennan County courthouse. In 1860, he served as district attorney. Was a law partner for a while with Judge A. J. Evans and later with Dr. Thomas Moore. Was a trustee of Fifth Street (now First) Methodist Church. Was a Confederate veteran.

Thomas E. Davis, ca.1859-1898. A native of Waco. Son of James F. and Brunette Elizabeth Selman Davis. Husband of Mary Winship Davis. He was a planter and was a Baylor University supporter. He shot William Cowper Brann, editor of The Iconoclast, on April 1, 1898; W. C. Brann returned Davis’ fire, and both men died the next day. His feud with Brann may be related to attacks on Baylor University in The Iconoclast. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.) Texas Historical Marker for the Brann-Davis shooting is located in the 100 block of S. 4th Street.

Ann Evans Denison, 1838-1856. A native of Georgia. She was the wife of Franklin L. Denison, 1831-1889, who moved to Waco in 1854 to begin his practice of law. He served as state prosecuting attorney for some time. Frank Denison founded and published The Register. He was a Confederate veteran.

Aunt Martha Downs, ca. 1841-1895. A native of Mississippi. She was a philanthropist and a nurse. Mother of Walter K. Downs, ca. 1860-1898. A native of Texas, Walter K. Downs was a noted minstrel, violinist, and vocalist. He was in demand on social occasions for the wealthy of Waco. The funeral for Aunt Martha Downs at Saint James Methodist Church of Waco was attended by 2000 mourners, white and black. (Her grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)

Peter Drake, 1790-1892. A native of Granville County, North Carolina. A slave, he was given his freedom in Washington County, Texas in 1865. In 1885, he moved to Waco from Marshall, and he had been married four times. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)


Baylis Wood Earle, 1805-1859. A native of Pendleton District, South Carolina. Son of John B. and Sarah Taylor Earle. Married Ann Eliza Harrison in 1829. Received his M.D. degree from Transylvania College in Kentucky. He moved to Waco ca. 1857 and built what is known today as the Earle-Harrison House which has a Texas Historical Marker.


William D. Eastland, 1826-1877. A native of Alabama. He and Helen M. Terry, 1836-1921, were married in 1854 by District Judge R. E. B. Baylor in Bell County. Appointed postmaster of Belton in 1850, and served as district clerk from 1850-1861. A pioneer Waco physician and druggist. A member of Waco Lodge No. 92, A.F. and A.M. A member of First Baptist Church of Waco. On February 22, 1877, the edifice of First Baptist Church was destroyed by fire. Dr. Eastland helped other church members combat the fire. He died a few days later.

Andrew Jackson Evans, 1831-1897. A native of South Carolina. Son of Samuel R. and Mary Ann Cowan Evans. Came to Waco in 1850. Elected to the Texas legislature. Served as district judge from 1868-1870. Also served as the U.S. district attorney for the Western District of Texas, circa 1876. A Confederate veteran.


**William Michael Flournoy**, 1834-1911. A native of Louisville, Georgia. Attended college at Athens, Georgia. Moved to Waco in 1869. Appointed a special district judge for McLennan, Falls, and Bosque counties. Served as an alderman of Waco. Served in Confederate Army. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)


**William Aldridge Fort**, 1826-1878. A native of Alabama. Graduate of LaGrange College in 1846. Married Dionitia Wilson in 1856. Came to Waco ca. 1850. Served in Confederate Army during the Civil War. He and George Jackson opened a private bank which later became Waco National Bank. His home at 503 S. 4th Street is now a house museum. He was later re-interred in Oakwood Cemetery.

**Old Sam**, ca. 1880-1892. A native of Ireland. Imported by Walter Fort, he was the faithful dog at the Pacific Saloon located on S. 4th Street. He was buried in First Street Cemetery on March 19, 1892.

**John R. Frazier**, 1861-1945. A native of Bosque County, Texas. Son of James C. Frazier, 1831-1917, and Emily A. Moore Frazier, 1838-1929. Husband of Harriet “Hallie” Flint Frazier, 1868-1913. James C. Frazier was a partner with Jacob De Cordova and helped with many of the original surveys of Texas land grants. The James C. Frazier family moved to Waco in 1871. John R. Frazier was a graduate of Waco University and Jefferson Medical College. After practicing medicine in Texas, he moved to Mexico where he served as chief surgeon for the Monterrey and Gulf Railroad and later for the Vera Cruz and Pacific Railroad. General Porfirio Diaz, president of Mexico, commissioned Dr. Frazier an honorary colonel in the Mexican Army to irradiicate yellow fever in Vera Cruz. In 1903, he moved to Fort Worth where he served as the first company physician for Swift and Company. He later served as president of the Fort Worth Medical Society.

**S. M. Glenn**, born ca. 1823. A native of Tennessee. Husband of Lavinia B. Glenn, ca. 1824-1904. He served as a trustee of Waco Female Institute in 1858. He was appointed constable of McLennan County in 1865, and he was later sheriff of McLennan County from 1867 to 1868. S. M. Glenn was a Confederate veteran.
Thomas F. Grimes, 1843-1869. Henry A. Grimes, 1848-1869. “The Grimes Brothers”. Natives of Texas. Sons of Frederick M. and Elmira Farley Grimes of Coryell County, Texas. They were Confederate veterans and worked on cattle drives after the Civil War. During the Reconstruction era, Thomas Grimes came to Waco, accompanied by his brother Henry, to buy wedding “finery” for his upcoming marriage. They later visited a Waco saloon, came under the influence of alcohol, and became “boisterous”. They rode around the public square “shooting things up”, and the city marshal tried to arrest them. The Grimes brothers resisted arrest, rode out of town, and later fired at pursuing Federal soldiers. Thomas and Henry Grimes were killed by the Federal soldiers on October 18, 1869.


Patience Bland Smith Gurley, 1797-1885. A native of South Carolina. Daughter of Joshua and Mary Anderson Smith. Wife of Davis Gurley and a pioneer of Waco. She died at Liberty Hall, the Gurley plantation.


Bonnie Bell Hamlett Hall, 1888-1968. A native of Waco. Daughter of Dr. S. B. Hamlett and Johnnie T. Johnson Hamlett. Wife of Thomas Gladdin Hall, 1887-1944. Her grave marker is the most recent known marker in the cemetery.


S. B. Hamlett, ca. 1846-1908. A native of Texas. Came to Waco ca. 1870. Enlisted at 15 years of age in the Confederate Army. A pioneer Waco physician and a manufacturing chemist. A member of the Waco Medical Association. He and Dr. W. H. Wilkes were in practice together. Served as a deacon of First Baptist Church of Waco. A member of Waco Lodge No. 92, A.F. and A.M. His wife, Jennie H. Casseday Hamlett, died Aug. 31, 1877.
James Edward Harrison, 1815-1875. A native of Greenville District, South Carolina. Son of Isham and Harriet Kelly Harrison. In 1842, he married Mary Ann Susan Evans, 1825-1862, a daughter of James A. and Mary (Polly) Evans of Sunnyside plantation of Muldon, Mississippi. A member of the Mississippi senate. In 1857, purchased a 6,000 acre tract in McLennan and Falls counties and built Tehuacana Retreat, the Harrison plantation. By 1861, he served on the boards of Trinity River Male High School and First Baptist Church of Waco. Promoted to brigadier general in the Confederate Army in 1864. Able to speak Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Creek languages. Served on the board of Waco University and served as first president of the Baptist General Association of Texas. Served as a trustee of Baylor University.

Richard Harrison, 1821-1876. A native of Alabama. One of a trio of brothers who all gained rank of general in the Confederate Army. He was a great-grandnephew of U.S. President William Henry Harrison. Attended Kentucky Medical College. Was a physician prior to his army service. His first marriage was to Miss Ragsdale of Mississippi. After her death, he married Mary Tompkins, 1839-1869. His third marriage was to Emma Buck, 1837-1933, daughter of Rev. William C. Buck. Served as president of the Baptist State Convention of Mississippi. Moved to Texas in 1866. A trustee of Waco University. Served as chairman of the deacons of First Baptist Church of Waco. Texas Historical Marker is located about 10 miles north of Waco in a roadside park on southbound side of I-35.


Thomas Harrison, 1823-1891. A native of Jefferson County, Alabama. In 1843, moved to Brazoria County, Texas, where he studied law. Represented Harris County in the Texas legislature. In 1855, moved to Waco, where he was a deacon of First Baptist Church and a trustee of Trinity River Male High School. In 1858, married Sarah E. McDonald, 1838-1882. Became a colonel of the Terry’s Texas Rangers. Promoted to brigadier general in the Confederate Army in 1865. Elected district judge in 1866 and served as a trustee of Waco University. Later re-interred in Oakwood Cemetery.


Marie/Mary Herrmann, 1861-1891. A native of Atzmannsdorf, Germany. Wife of Rev. William Herrmann, the pastor of the German Evangelical Zion’s Church of Waco. The church was located at 623 S. 8th Street.


Martha “Mattie” Jane Hays Howe, 1831-1900. A native of Kentucky. Daughter of Judge and Mrs. Daniel Smith Hays. Wife of Dr. Samuel D. Howe. Came to Waco in the 1850s. A member of the Daughters of the King at Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church. The stained-glass window of the Good Shepherd at Saint Paul’s Church was given in memory of Mattie Hays Howe, wife of Dr. S. D. Howe.

Samuel Dunlap Howe, 1837-1871. A native of Fleming County, Kentucky. Husband of Martha Jane Hays Howe. A Confederate veteran and pioneer Waco physician and pharmacist. The stained-glass window of Saint Paul above the altar of Saint Paul’s Church was given in memory of Dr. Samuel D. Howe and Mrs. H. Clay Quarles.

Elizabeth Hughston, ca. 1816-1902. Wife of John Hughston. Came to Texas from Alabama in 1871 and to Waco in 1874. A pioneer of Waco. (Her grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)


Telephus Telemachus Louis Augustus Albartus Johnson, 1822-1875. A native of Alabama. Son of Hezekiah Johnson. Husband of Mary Louisa Dunnica Johnson. Moved to Waco in 1852 and became one of the wealthiest men in Waco. Originally interred in the large red brick mausoleum near the entrance to First Street Cemetery. Later re-interred in Oakwood Cemetery.
Elizabeth Jones, 1874-1920. She was a member of the Mosaic Templars of America, Pride of Texas Chamber 728, Hearne, Texas. The Mosaic Templars was an African-American fraternal organization. Its monument department provided her Vermont marble grave marker with the Mosaic Templar symbol.


Mary A. E. Fols Jurney, ca. 1829-1876. Came to Waco in 1854. Wife of John C. Jurney, 1830-1903. A native of Kentucky, he was a Confederate veteran and served as a Waco alderman. After the Civil War, started Ripley and Jurney hardware.

Reuben Kaufman, ca. 1836-1912. Served as sexton of Hebrew Rest Cemetery of Waco. Helped his son move some graves from First Street Cemetery to Oakwood Cemetery.

Nancy J. Cooper Kellum, 1826-1855. Married in 1843 in Mississippi to William R. Kellum. Moved to McLennan County, circa 1854. In 1867, started Kellum and Sparks general merchandise. W. R. Kellum served as a deacon of First Baptist Church and served as a trustee of Waco University.

Samuel M. Kingston, ca. 1810-1885. A native of Ireland. A Methodist minister for around 53 years, he served churches in Tennessee, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Texas. Came to Texas ca. 1851 where he later served as the presiding elder of the Trinity District and the Navasota District. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)


Edward Ludecus, ca. 1848-1878. A dealer in millinery and fancy goods. His business was located at 29 Austin Street in 1876. He served as first assistant in the Rescue Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1.


Martha J. Murdock Maloney, 1848-1880. Daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Gains Murdock. Wife of W. Harvey Maloney. W. H. Maloney came to McLennan County ca. 1870, and he was a farmer and cattlemen. Martha Murdock Maloney was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church.

Ephraim P. Massey, 1818-1896. A native of Giles County, Tennessee. A son of Ephraim M. Massey. Came to Grimes County, Texas in 1862 and to Waco in 1866. Served as chief justice of McLennan County in 1873 and as county judge of McLennan County from 1874-1876. Was a member of Waco Lodge No. 92, A. F. and A. M. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)

Neil Andrew McPhaul, born ca. 1828. A native of North Carolina. Husband of Sarah Fleming McPhaul. He was a Confederate veteran and was appointed sheriff of McLennan County from November 1867 to September 1868 by the military authority of the United States.


Daniel Moore, 1801-1873. A native of Jackson County, Georgia. Son of John Moore, a veteran of the American Revolution. Came to Fort Gates in Bell County in 1853. Served as first county treasurer of Coryell County from 1854-1856. Moved to McLennan County in 1859. Owned the first blacksmith shop in Robinson.

Elizabeth Davis Moore, 1809-1878. A native of South Carolina and wife of Daniel Moore. They married June 15, 1826, in Hall County, Georgia. Parents of 13 children. A pioneer of McLennan County.

James Yancey Moore, 1811-1869. A native of North Carolina. A pioneer of McLennan County. Brought family from Dent County, Missouri to Waco in 1856. Purchased a 118 acre homestead on Waco Creek, near the present Brookview/Fairgate areas of Waco. His gravesite has a large granite ledger noting the history of his family and descendants.
Shepart Mullins, ca. 1828-1871. Born a slave in Lawrence County, Alabama. Came to Texas in 1854. Purchased land in and around Waco between 1865-1870. In 1866, he married Sallie Downs. In 1867, he served on the platform committee of the first Republican Party convention in Texas. A member of the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1868-69. In 1869, he was selected to serve as a McLennan County commissioner and was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Favored the establishment of the Texas State Police and a militia to control violence. He and other 19th century black legislators were honored at the Texas State Cemetery with a cenotaph which was unveiled and dedicated on March 30, 2010.

Thomas C. Murray, 1833-1889. A native of Ireland. Husband of Matilda D. Clark Murray, 1852-1932. She was born on a steamboat on the Atlantic Ocean and was a daughter of J. P. Clark. Thomas C. Murray served in company G, 2nd regiment of the Louisiana Infantry during the Civil War. He was a cordwainer, and his shop was on the corner of Elm and Dallas in East Waco.

James M. Norris, 1819-1874. A native of South Carolina. Husband of Sophronia E. Robinson Norris. Read law in the office of Humphrey and Avery at Columbus, Mississippi, and in 1841 moved to Washington County, Texas. He served as a colonel in the Civil War and later practiced law in Waco for seven years.

Mary M. Arnold Nowlin, ca. 1835-1858. Wife of J. W. Nowlin, who settled in Waco in 1850. They married on June 27, 1852, in Waco. J. W. Nowlin was the first attorney licensed by the district court in McLennan County. He was first associated with Richard Coke and later with M. D. Herring. The firm of Nowlin and Herring became a prominent practice in McLennan County. He was a charter member of Bosque (now Waco) Lodge No. 92, A.F. and A.M.


Harriet “Hallie” Kelly Earle Pearre, 1840-1893. A native of Mississippi. Daughter of Dr. Baylis Wood Earle and Eliza Harrison Earle. Wife of Charles Baer Pearre. Attended Judson College in Alabama. Came to Waco ca. 1857. Elected one of seven deaconesses of First Baptist Church of Waco in 1877. (Her grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)

Caroline Peters, ca. 1824-1851. A native of Alabama. Wife of Hutson Peters who was born ca. 1820. Moved to Waco ca. 1851 from Rusk County, Texas. He was a charter member of Bosque (now Waco) Lodge No. 92, A.F. and A.M., and held Masonic offices from 1852 to 1856. He served as McLennan County tax collector from 1857 to 1865. Her grave marker is the oldest known marker in the cemetery.
Conrad Peters, 1833-1875. Husband of Emily Garber Peters, a native of Saxony. First cobbler in Waco. Immigrated to Texas from Berlin, Germany, before the Civil War. Made boots and shoes for the Confederate soldiers.

James C. Pettigrew, ca. 1816-1892. A native of Washington County, Missouri. Son of John and Sarah Baird Pettigrew. Moved to Victoria County, Texas ca. 1837. Came to Waco in 1851 where he constructed many early buildings. A member of Waco Lodge No. 92, A.F. and A.M., and the Odd Fellows. A charter member of Central Presbyterian Church. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)

Margaret Lattimer Pettigrew, ca. 1828-1907. A native of St. Louis, Missouri. A pioneer of Waco. Came to Waco in 1851. A charter member of Central Presbyterian Church. (Her grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)

George W. Prather, 1806-1874. A native of Tennessee. Ordained a deacon in the Methodist Church in 1847. Moved to Texas in 1854 and bought 3,000 acres along the South Bosque River. One of the original investors in the Waco Bridge Co.


Henry Clay Hays Quarles, ca. 1833-1877. A native of Kentucky. A daughter of Jane Boyd Hays and Judge Daniel Smith Hays. Wife of William “Fred” Friedrich von Steuben Quarles, ca. 1833-1898. A native of Tennessee, he served as a vestryman of Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church in 1868, and he was a tinner. A Confederate veteran, he is buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. The stained-glass window of Saint Paul above the altar of Saint Paul’s Church was given in memory of Dr. Samuel D. Howe and Mrs. H. Clay Quarles.


Benjamin W. Roberts, 1852-1904. A native of Monticello, Jefferson County, Florida. Husband of Diana Williams Roberts, 1853-1893. An ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, he served churches in the Bahama Islands, Florida, and Texas. He was appointed to Saint Paul A.M.E. Church of Waco circa 1883. During his life, he also served as a justice of the peace, a county commissioner, the inspector of customs for the port of Key West, and a trustee and board chairman of Paul Quinn College of Waco.
Armstead Ross, 1821-1883. Husband of Lucindy Ross. He was a slave and companion of Shapley P. Ross. He came to Texas with Ross in 1839. He assisted in building the first house in Waco and worked as an independent drayman. Was entrusted with the responsibility of caring for the Ross family while Shapley Ross was absent on Indian expeditions and during the Civil War. Armstead and his wife were among the original twenty-one settlers in Waco Village. He was buried in the Ross family plot at First Street Cemetery.

Annie Allen Sedwick, ca. 1847-1876. Wife of John Francis Sedwick, 1841-1909. John F. Sedwick was a wealthy rancher with significant land holdings across Texas and was the president of the White Steel Gate Company of Waco. The community of Sedwick in Shackelford County was named in his honor.


John Oliver Shook, ca. 1819-1860. A native of Tennessee. Husband of Mary A. Crawford Shook. The John Oliver Shook family was living in Rankin County, Mississippi in 1850, and they moved to Waco ca. 1854. He was the editor/publisher of two early Waco newspapers: the Democrat and the Brazos Statesman. According to published accounts, he was murdered on October 25, 1860 by one of his printers. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)

Willis L. Somervell, 1811-1864. A native of Virginia. Husband of Mary Martin Somervell,1812-1893. In 1848, Judge Willis L. Somervell and family moved to Tulip, Dallas County, Arkansas from Hardeman County, Tennessee. He later helped in the founding of the Arkansas Military Institute and the Tulip Female Seminary. He was a member of Waco Lodge No. 92, A.F. and A.M. Pioneers of Waco.


John Kennedy Street, 1837-1914. A native of Tennessee. Son of Joseph B. and Mary Kennedy Street. Moved to Texas in 1854. Married Melinda Elizabeth Pace on July 9, 1861, in Lamar County, Texas. Served in the Confederate Army and later moved to Waco where he founded in 1874 The Reporter, an early Waco newspaper. He also served as the editor and proprietor of The Reporter. He established Street’s Monthly and was editor of the Central Texan. During the 1880s, he had charge of Waco Examiner. Was a member of Masonic and Odd Fellow fraternities.
**Melinda Elizabeth Pace Street**, 1839-1897. A native of Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Daughter of Ruel and Susan Pace. Wife of John Kennedy Street. Her family moved to Texas in 1849 and settled in Smith County, Texas. Was an associate editor with her husband in his publications.


**Howell Lewis Taylor**, 1828-1886. A native of Haywood County, Tennessee. Son of Rev. Joseph W. Taylor and Candis S. High Taylor, 1803-1865. Attended La Grange College. Came to Texas in 1863. He was ordained in the Methodist Church in 1858, and he was a Confederate veteran.


**James H. Torbett**, 1823-1913. A native of Augusta County, Virginia. One of the first settlers in Waco. In 1845, served two years in a U.S. regiment during the Mexican War and was with the army of occupation in Mexico City. A Civil War veteran. In Waco, he served as an alderman, deputy district clerk, and city recorder.


**Benjamin Walker**, 1819-1870. A native of East Tennessee. Ordained an elder in 1843 by Salem Baptist Church. Came to Waco in 1866 and was the first pastor of East Waco Baptist Church. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)

**Almira G. Wallace**, ca. 1835-1903. A native of Alabama. Wife of James D. Wallace. Came to Waco in 1857. He served as county treasurer from 1878-1890. (Her grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)

**Orlando Wheat**, ca. 1848-1894. Son of Benoni and Maria Wheat of Alexandria, Virginia. He came to Waco ca. 1875 and was a real estate agent, conveyancer, and a notary public. He was associated with the *Waco Daily Examiner* and was an officer of Waco Lodge No. 92, A. F. and A. M.

**Tempie Lewis Williams**, 1867-1910. A native of McLennan County, Texas. Daughter of Howell and Pleasant Lewis. Wife of Columbus Williams. She was a member of the Daughters of Tabor of the International Order of Twelve, an African-American fraternal organization.
Shed/Sedwick/Shadrack Willis, ca. 1817-1903. A native of Virginia. Husband of Isabella Willis, 1833-1885, a school teacher. Slave of Judge Nicholas William Battle. Moved to Waco in 1855. A pioneer blacksmith of central Texas. He shod General Sam Houston’s riding horse in 1859, and he was a farrier for the Confederate Cavalry in 1862. Served on the city council for two terms after the Civil War. (His grave marker was missing at the time of the 1962 cemetery survey.)


Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon them.
May their souls, and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
- adapted from The Book of Common Prayer
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