**THE OLD CHAPEL HILL CEMETERY**

**Est. 1798**

**CHAPEL HILL**

**NORTH CAROLINA**

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**History of the Cemetery**

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery lies in the heart of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The site was part of a land grant given by the State of North Carolina in 1796 to develop the University of North Carolina, and the cemetery originally served as a final resting place for University faculty and students.

The University’s Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies were the first to establish burial plots. The earliest recorded burial, in 1798, was that of 19 year old George Clarke, although the stone marking his grave dates from the mid-19th century. Several monuments in the Di and Phi enclosures are the work of noted 19th century stonecarver George Lauder of Fayetteville. Other monuments were carved by British stonemasons originally hired to construct Raleigh’s state capitol in 1840. The Cemetery was enclosed in 1835 by a rock wall, constructed at a cost of $64.41.

Dr. Joseph Caldwell, the first person officially titled President of the University of North Carolina, was interred here in 1835, but in 1846 was removed to a monument erected on McCorkle Place on the main campus. At that time, University trustees proposed creating a new cemetery on McCorkle Place, but this did not come to fruition. Instead, the trustees officially changed the name of the old cemetery to the “College Graveyard”, but it continued to be called the “Village Cemetery” by most residents.
There were no black church cemeteries in Chapel Hill in the 18th and early 19th centuries; consequently, the slaves of the village were buried in a segregated section of the Cemetery (Sections A and B), separated from the other sections (I, II, III and IV) by a low rock wall, which still stands. The large sandstone obelisk in Section B, dedicated to the black servants of the University, is the original Joseph Caldwell monument from McCorkle Place, which was replaced in the late 19th century by a granite obelisk. Many of the fieldstones in Section A and B mark the graves of unknown blacks.

The Cemetery was used for the interment of many administrators, professors and teachers of the University, as well as public officials, prominent businesspeople, and local authors, artists and entertainers. During the Civil War, many Confederate soldiers, their graves marked by “C.S.A.” stones, were buried here. Veterans of later wars also are at rest here.

The Cemetery was expanded to its present boundaries in 1928. Although it is now nearly full, burials still occur in all six sections. In 1922, the University and the Town of Chapel Hill entered into an agreement for the Town to maintain the Cemetery and administer the sale of lots, but it was not until 1988 that the University officially deeded the Cemetery to the Town.

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery represents the broad spectrum of people who helped found Chapel Hill and its University, and who gave it a unique place in North Carolina history.
Some Graves in the Cemetery
Please refer to the map for locations.

Sec. A:

F02. Fannie McDade, 1861-1964. Laundress for students; died at age 103.
G17. Annie Harton, 1843-?. Example of “home-made” concrete stone.
H37. Thomas Booth, Sr., 1887-1955. Stone and brick mason; with brother Lewis, built some stone walls on campus and some houses on Gimghoul Road.
I04. George Kirkland, 1899-1948. First black dentist in Chapel Hill.
I33. Rev. Lewis H. Hackney, 1854-1937. Pastor, Rock Hill Baptist Church (now First Baptist) for 60 years.
K05. Henry Merrett (Merritt), 1871-1943. Long-time employee of Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

Sec. B:

02. George Trice, 1838-1915. Ran oyster restaurant and shoe repair shop on Franklin Street.
M34. Nannie Weaver, 1871-1971. Died at the age of 100.
N33. Dr. Edwin Caldwell, 1867-1932. Son of Wilson Caldwell (S26). Received medical degree at Shaw U. in Raleigh; practiced many years in Chapel Hill. Developed cure for pellagra.
R19. George Barbee, mid-19th century. One of the oldest stones in this section.
S26. Wilson Swain Caldwell, 1898. Monument originally located on campus for Dr. Joseph Caldwell. Ex-slave; established first school for blacks in Chapel Hill; Town Commissioner in 1880’s. Others honored at this monument are father November Caldwell, David Barham, and Henry Smith.
Y09. Dilsey Craig, 1802-1894. A slave for over 60 years in the home of the prominent Phillips family (see Sec. I).

Sec. I:

JJ16. Thomas West Harris, 1839-1888. First Dean of Medical School; also ran drugstore.
MM05. Louis Graves, 1883-2965. Founder, publisher and editor of Chapel Hill Weekly. MM08-RR19. Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies enclosures. During UNC’s early years, all students were required to join one of these societies. Interesting epitaphs; stones and fences are fine examples from the Victorian era.
OO08. Nancy Billiard, 1798-1873. Proprietor of Eagle Hotel, on present site of Graham Memorial Building, which President Polk once visited. She later built a home called the Crystal Palace, on present site of Planetarium Rose Garden, where she took in student boarders. Her parents are buried in two unmarked graves just to the north of hers.
PP18. Graham Morrow, 1785-1863. Killed at Gettysburg. A brother was killed at Fredericksburg, and another in
Atlanta.

PP19. Edward and Annabella Martin, mid-19th century. Young wife died 3 days after marriage; romantic epitaph.


QQ13. William MacNider, 1881-1951. Dean of Medical School; authority on kidney diseases and aging process.


RR11. George Clarke, 1779-1798. First known interment in cemetery; stone dates from mid-19th century.

RR12. William Mallett, 1819-1889. Physician; ran student infirmary. Also had chemist's shop and post office in home at Franklin and Henderson Streets.

RR16. Edward Kidder Graham, 1876-1918. UNC President 1914-18; advocate of women’s rights; died in influenza epidemic.

RR02, SS01-03-04. Phillips family. Prominent Chapel Hillians. Charles (1822-1889) was UNC Professor; his daughter Cornelia Phillips Spencer (1825-1908) helped reopen UNC during Reconstruction; his son Samuel (1824-1903) was Prof. of Law, and later U.S. Solicitor General under President Grant. 006. Walter Toy, 1854-1933. Prof. of Modern Languages for 48 years.

Sec II:

001. Collier Cobb Sr., 1862-1934. Prof. of Geology for 42 years.


002. Harriet Morehead Berry, 1877-1940. Advocated North Carolina road improvements; section of I-40 between Durham and Hillsborough named for her.


007. Lillian Hughes Prince, 1893-1962. Actress; First Queen Elizabeth in “The Lost Colony”.

008. Thomas Wilson, Jr., 1874-1945. Prof. of Greek and Latin; Registrar for 46 years.


009. H.H. “Hoot” Patterson, 1844-1917. Ran general store on Franklin St.. First homeowner in Chapel Hill to install running water.


028. William Coker, 1872-1953. Prof. of Botany for whom campus arboretum is named.
028. Francis Venable, 1856-1934. University President; Kenan Professor; served on UNC faculty for 50 years.
032. Robert Strowd, 1864-1934. Owned 1200 acre plantation in Davie Circle area off E. Franklin St. in early 20th
century; built Strowd Block on W. Franklin St.
032. William Strowd, 1832-1911. Ran sawmill on Bolin Creek.
033. Alfred Engstrom, 1907-1990. Prof. of Romance Languages.
034. Eric Abernathy, 1876-1933. University physician for whom Abernethy Hall is named.
042. Bruce Strowd, 1892-1955. Owned Ford dealership at corner of Columbia and Franklin Streets for many years.
075. Joseph Hyde Pratt, 1870-1942. Prof. of Geology and first chairman of Planning Board.
086. Isaac Prichard, 1853-1935. State representative; director, Bank of Chapel Hill; developer, Westwood
subdivision.
087. William Pritchard, 1850-1930. Storekeeper, postmaster, mayor, state senator. Until his death, ran 15 acre farm
west of Columbia St. near present Town Hall.
basketball award.
092. Marvin Hendrix Stacy, 1877-1919. Served 3 months as acting UNC President; died in same influenza epidemic
that took the life of his predecessor, Edward Kidder Graham.
099. William Roberson, 1869-1935. 3-time mayor, teacher, realtor, lawyer.
100-110. Carmichael Family. Prominent businesspeople and UNC supporters. Carmichael Gym named for William,
Jr. (1900-1961), Acting UNC President.
107. Mid-19th century obelisk marking graves of children in Elisha Mitchell family, originally interred behind his
home (currently the site of a parking lot behind Swain Hall). Mitchell was Prof. of Geology; Mt. Mitchell named for
him.
107. Horace Williams, 1858-1940. Prof. of Philosophy. Left entire estate to UNC, including home on E. Rosemary
and 1000 acres on present site of municipal airport.
130. Adam Kluttz, 1857-1926. Ran well-known general store on Franklin St.

Sec III:

B12. Ralph Trimble, 1899-1975. Prof. of Engineering; surveyed much of Chapel Hill.
C08. James Gooch, 1871-1940. Long-time owner of Gooch’s Cafe, Franklin St.
C09. Oscar “Skipper” Coffin, 1887-1956. Prof. of Journalism; author.
E08. Edwin Greenlaw, 1874-1931. Prof. of English.
E11. Frederick (1893-1973) and Adeline (1900-1989) McCall. Two of the founders of North Carolina Symphony;
he was UNC Prof. of Law; she composed score for “The Lost Colony”.
J06. Maurice Van Hecke, 1892-1963. Prof. of Law for whom Van Hecke-Wettach Hall is named.
J15. Isaac Hall Manning. 1866-1946. Dean of Medical School, Kenan Prof. of Physiology. Founded Hospital Saving
of N.C, providing first medical care in North Carolina for all its citizens, which became Blue Cross/Blue Shield.
N14. John Nesbitt, 1860-1946. Engineer for 24 years on UNC railroad, the “Whooper”.
O09. Mable Hill, 1893-1983. Silent movie pianist for many years at Pickwick Theatre on Franklin Street.

Sec IV:

F01. Fred Smith Sr., 1858-1939. Conductor for 48 years on UNC railroad, the “Whooper”.
F10. Samuel Cornwell, 1925-1979. Prof. of Physical Education.
G02. Rachel Crook, 1879-1951 (murdered). Ran Chapel Hill’s first launderette; also ran fish/produce market which later became Crook’s Corner Restaurant.
G15. Robert Coker, 1876-1967, Prof. of Biology and author.
G17. Wesley Critz George, 1888-1982. Prof. of Anatomy; world-famous expert on study of blood and embryos.
H05. Robert Wettach, 1891-1964. Prof. of Law for whom Van Hecke-Wettach Hall is named.
Q17. Roy Armstrong, 1904-1984. UNC Dir. of Admissions; Dir. of Morehead Foundation; Brigadier General, US Army Reserves.
T11. Jeff Thomas, 1898-1957. Owner, Jeff’s Confectionery on Franklin Street.
T16. Henry Totten, 1892-1974. Professor of Botany, He and wife Addie (1889-1974) were well known horticulturalists for whom Totten Center at the NC Botanical Garden is named.
CAN WE HELP YOU? Are you interested in research or genealogy? Is one of your descendants buried here? If we can help you in your research, please contact us.

WILL YOU HELP US? Do you have information about anyone buried in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery that you can share with us? We want to compile a history of the families into a permanent record.

We also need funds to help maintain our grounds and headstones.

To send us a donation, information, or a request for information please contact:

Cemetery Fund
Town of Chapel Hill
306 N. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
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