

Grove Hill Cemetery

Historic Tidbits

History Notes

“History Notes” is an ongoing collection of information on some of the famous and not so famous residents of Grove Hill Cemetery as collected by historians, Betty Matthews, Charles Long, Duanne Puckett, Mike Harrod and others. Check back periodically for new notes on our residents that we will share as information is gathered and time is available to post them. Some notes are fact, some are legend with the facts lost to time, some are conjecture, all are respectfully shared for visitors’ enjoyment.

This document is a searchable PDF (portable document file) which allows you to enter names, dates or words to readily search the information provided. Depending on your PDF version, you may be able to click on the “binoculars” image in the toolbar for access to the search window. If you do not see the binoculars, look in the toolbar and click on the arrow to the right of the “Find” window to access the binoculars.

To request information we might have on specific residents, do a database search from our home page of the person. Next, click on “View” for the burial details; at the lower left column of that page click on “Request More Information” to find a request form.

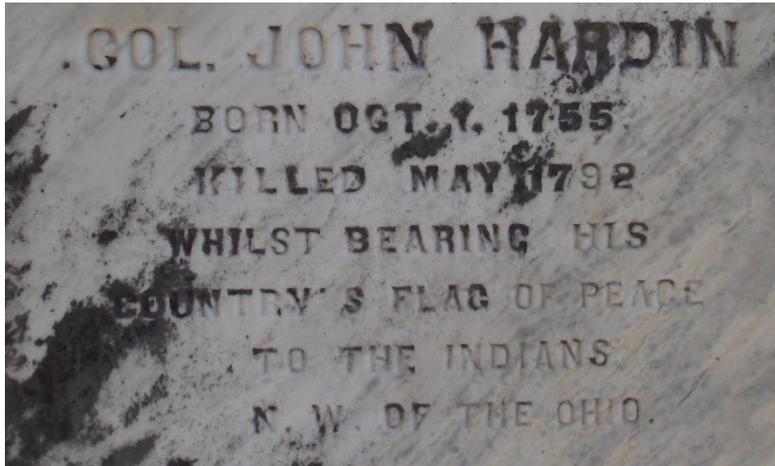
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Grove Hill Cemetery Map

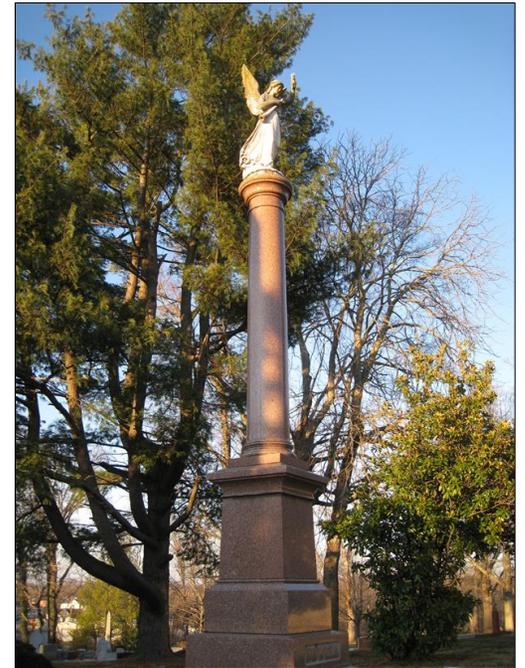
Col. John S. Hardin (Section C) Cenotaph – in Grove Hill. Col Hardin, who fought valiantly in the Revolutionary War, died in the Northwest Territory in 1792 fighting with Anthony Wayne’s Legion. A popular account of his death is he was killed by Indians “whilst he waved his flag of truce.”



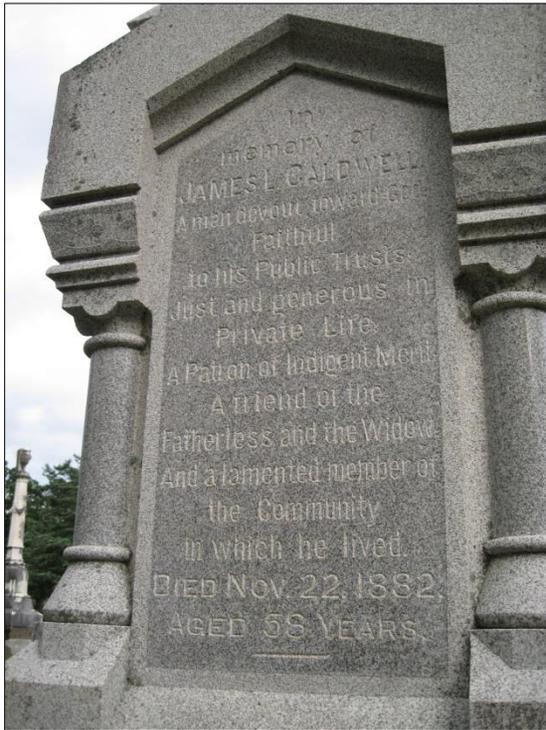
Aquila Whitaker (Section C) Cenotaph – in Grove Hill. The son of the Rev. John Whitaker, born in 1755 in Virginia. Pioneer and Indian fighter. Was at Boonesborough in 1780 and at Painted Stone Station in 1781. Member of James Harrod’s Company at Falls of Ohio 1780. Fought with frontier luminaries Daniel Boone, John Floyd, Benjamin Logan and Hugh McGary. Served with General George Rogers Clark in Illinois Company of the Virginia Militia at the taking of Kaskaskia and Vincennes. By 1784, developed Whitaker’s Station, also known as Red Orchard. In 1792, helped lay out the town of Shelbyville. Along with Bland Ballard, laid out a route from Shelbyville to Falls of Ohio, known today as Midland Trail or US 60. In 1807, stabbed and killed Joseph Simpson in a barroom brawl. Arrested and jailed. Managed to escape, with assistance from a trusty slave, who was later granted his freedom. The pair made their way down Clear Creek, Brashear Creek, and Salt River to the Ohio River. Settled in Vincennes, Ind., and later moved to West Florida, La., where he died and was buried.



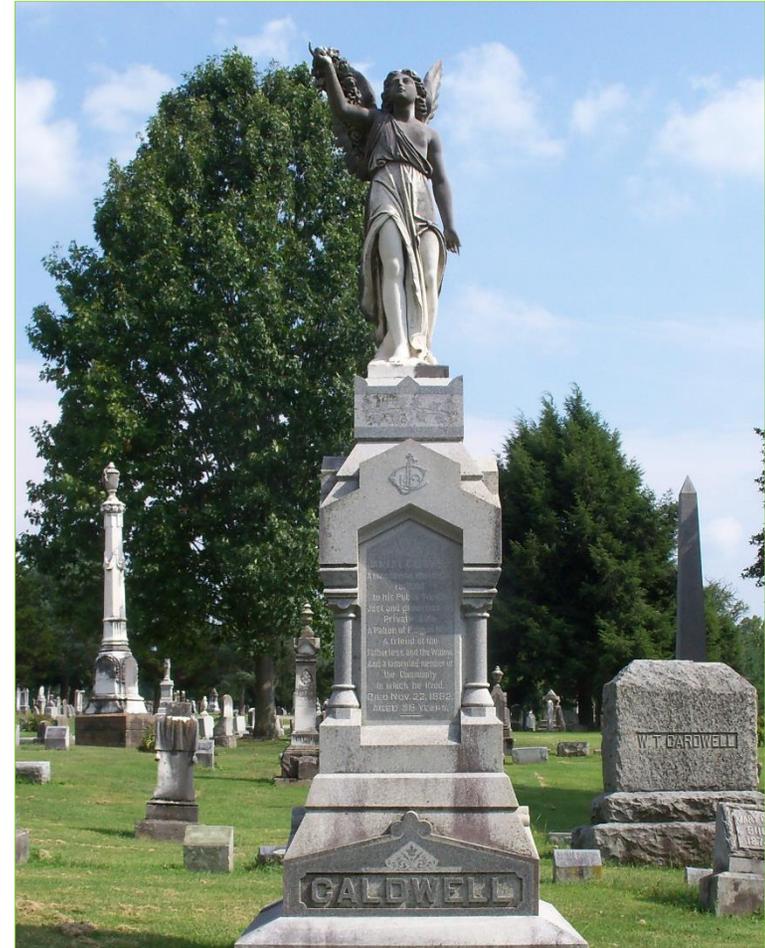
This angel stands as a sentry above one of the monuments in the **Howell family** (Section C, Lot/Row 86) plot adjacent to the chapel. There are about 12 Howell family members buried there... from Mary Howell born Aug 7, 1773/ died Nov 29, 1865 to Willie Howell born Feb 4, 1906/ died Dec 15, 1984. Mary Agnes Howell Bell died 1915, gave \$500 to Grove Hill Cemetery for upkeep of this lot and \$1,000 for the family to erect a monument for her... they never did. Her father, Nathan Howell (1801-1878) gave 270 acres to his daughter as a wedding gift – he was a landowner and farmer on Zaring Mill Road, building what is known as Tarry Long, the largest ante-bellum home in the county in 1851. When the daughter's farm faced financial woes in 1872 and was being sold to cover costs, he bought it back for her for \$9 an acre.



James L. Caldwell (Interred: Section B, Lot/Row 84, Space 5). The inscription on Caldwell's monument reads, "The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more into the perfect day. A man devout toward God, faithful to his public trusts. Just and generous in private life. A patron of indigent merit. A friend of the fatherless and the widow and a lamented member of the community in which he lived. Died November 22, 1882 at age 58 years."



Cashier and later president of Farmers & Traders Bank, he became a prominent citizen in the county, elected from Shelby to the State Legislature in 1851-1852, and again in 1855-1856. In 1859, he was chosen county judge, which office he held for 12



consecutive years. After voluntarily retiring from the position of judge, he formed a law partnership with C.M. Harwood. For many years, he had been a most active member of the Christian Church of Shelbyville. He was the maternal grandfather of Alice Hegan Rice, author of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*.

FLT stands for **F**riendship, **L**ove, **T**ruth... three guiding principles associated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a benevolent and social society also known as "The Three Link Fraternity." The I.O.O.F. was first organized in the US in 1819... some say as an offshoot of the Masonic fraternity in England. The emblem of the Odd Fellows is usually shown as three links of a chain... several can be found at Grove Hill Cemetery in Shelbyville KY.



Rockwood Giddings (August 8, 1812-October 29, 1839 Interred: Section E, Lot/Row 85, Space 1) - A native of New Hampshire, he was called "bookish" as a child and graduated in 1833 from Waterville College in Maine. He studied medicine but answered a call to the ministry. Friends of Grove Cemetery tour guide Mike Harrod says, "He dropped the medicine books to become somebody to pump life into the church. Boy, did he make the right decision!"



In the winter of 1835, Giddings was ordained as a Baptist minister and visited Shelbyville where he received a unanimous call to become the preacher at the local Baptist church. In a short time, his church was thriving and he had earned recognition as a leading Kentucky Baptist and noted evangelist.

While serving in Shelbyville he married Shelby County resident Mary Hansborough (December 10, 1818 - March 11, 1839). Giddings accepted the

leadership role of Georgetown College the autumn of 1838. Sadly, his young bride died within 12 months of their vows.

In 1838, Georgetown College had a few students, two teachers, a small amount of money, and one wooden building. Harrod said, "The College was looking for someone to do for the college what Giddings had done for the (Shelbyville) church." Upon election as Georgetown College's fourth president, only the third to fill the position, the 26-year-old Giddings told the College Board, "Everybody on this Board who disagrees with me theologically can quit."

Georgetown College was on the verge of closing but under his leadership, the cornerstone was firmly placed for the college's future success. In the first eight months of his presidency, Giddings raised \$80,000 through his fervent speeches to Baptist congregations and other groups in about one-third of Kentucky's counties.

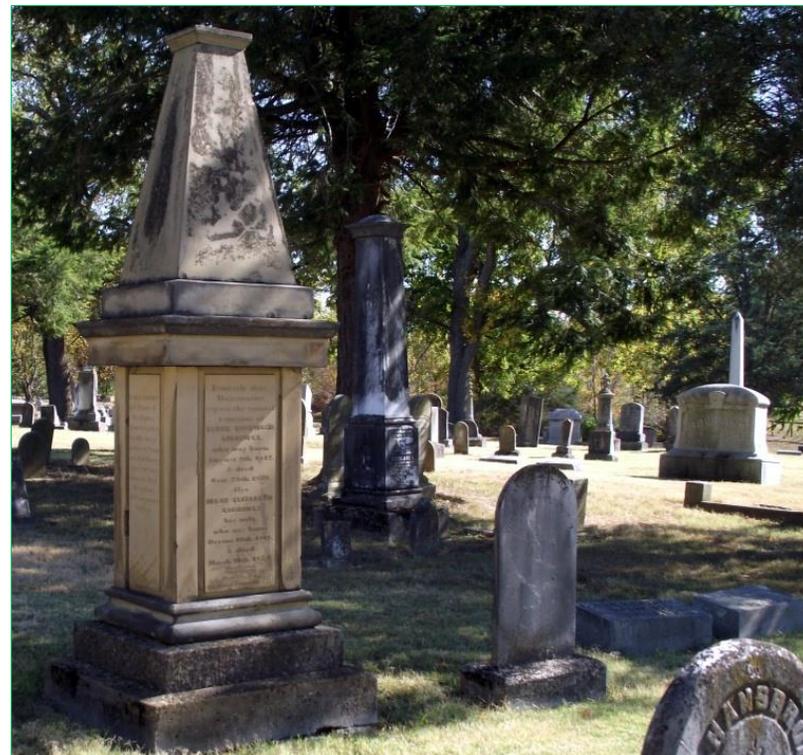
Tragedy struck on October 13, 1839 at Long Run Baptist Church. Giddings collapsed after eight days of preaching and died of exhaustion on October 29.

He and his wife were buried in the Shelbyville Baptist Church yard but were re-interred at Grove Hill in 1868, along with her father Joel (1778-1844) and mother

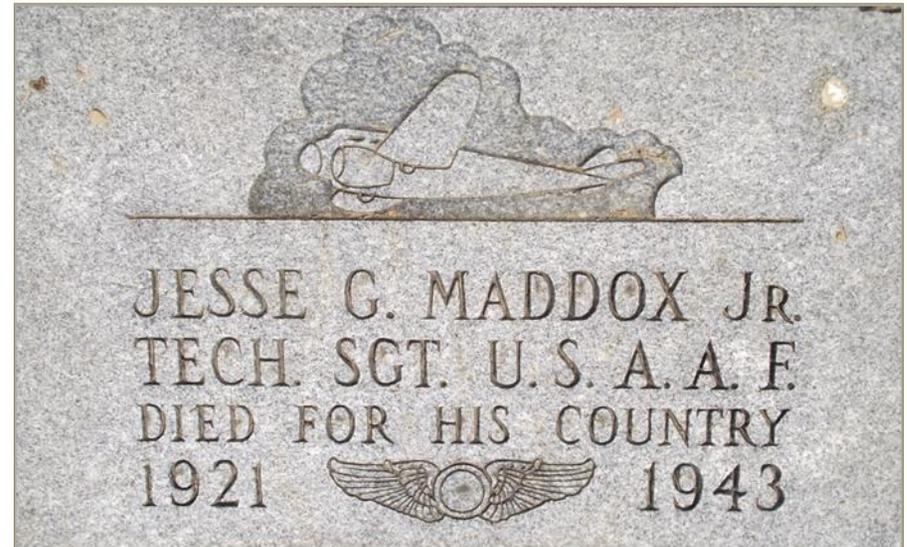
Lucey (?-1860). Two of Joel Hansborough's sisters were killed September 1781 during what is known as the Long Run Massacre when Indians attacked the Painted Stone Station in what was the first settlement in this area.

Georgetown College erected an obelisk of Kentucky marble at the college in Giddings' memory. Giddings had commissioned the construction of the first permanent building on the campus to be named Recitation Hall. In tribute to the young president's vital contribution it was renamed Giddings Hall to be "commemorative of his Christian character and of their gratitude for his self-sacrificing services in behalf of the cause of education and religion."

Georgetown College Professor, J. E. Farnam said in his historic account, "Annals of the American Pulpit", 1860, that tributes to Giddings in 1859 reported "he was beloved by all who knew him... He was a great favorite with his aged brethren in the ministry, many of whom still living, cherish his memory with the feelings of a parent for a departed child."



Jesse G. Maddox (1921 – 1943; Interred: Section P, Lot/Row 213, Space: 5) A Shelbyville native he served in the U S Army Air Force during World War II. Tech. Sgt. Maddox's plane crashed in Switzerland after being forced down by German fire following a raid deep into Nazi Germany. He had been a radio operator on a B-17 Flying Fortress, participating in what was the largest raid on Munich up to that time. He and his crew were buried in Switzerland with highest military honors. Upon word of his death, his parents' home on West Main proudly displayed a Gold Star Flag in the front window. After the war, the Swiss government decided to no longer maintain the cemetery where he and his comrades were buried, so his family brought his remains to Grove Hill Cemetery.



Major Ben McMakin

(November 26, 1913 -
January 18, 1945;

Cenotaph: Section P)

A Shelbyville native, Benjamin Lee McMakin was a popular member of the 1931 Shelbyville High School football team and president of his class. An honor ROTC graduate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1935, he was commissioned second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Six years later, at the outbreak of WW II, he was in the Philippines with the 4th Marine Regiment.



service full of hope, presided over the burial service of the dead.

Beth Crumley posted on the Huffington Post in 2006 this account: *On 24 December, 1941, Captain Benjamin McMakin called together the Marines of Company F and said, "Gentlemen, it is Christmas Eve. We move all night." The 1st Battalion, 4th Marines suffered its first casualties of the war when two Marines were killed in action, and another three were wounded. Regimental Chaplain Herbert R. Trump, instead of conducting a Christmas Eve*

The 2nd Battalion of the 4th Marines moved to the Mariveles to be ferried to Corregidor on December 27, 1941. Despite valiant efforts but with no U. S. or Allied support, the troops on Corregidor, including Captain McMakin, were forced to surrender May 6, 1942. The wounded McMakin marched with his comrades to a Japanese prisoner of war camp in the Philippines. His one communication received by his wife, Mada, in

August 1944 only let her know he was a prisoner in the Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 1.

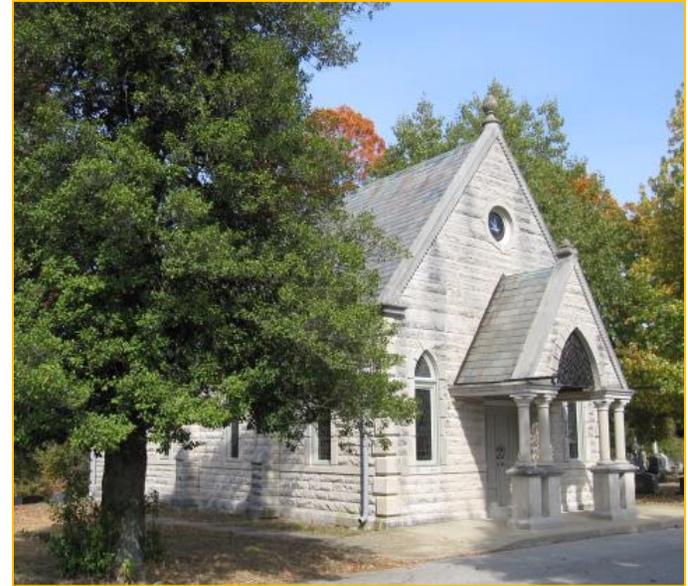
While McMakin and other prisoners were being transported to Japan on the Brazil Maru (one of the ships Allied survivors have since labeled “Japanese Hellships”) it was bombed by naval aircraft from the USS Hornett. The Japanese failed to follow international law and properly identify the ship as transporting prisoners of war.

McMakin died January 18, 1945. He was buried at sea. Marker on the cenotaph shows Captain but he was posthumously promoted to Major on March 20, 1946.

Sources: Ronald R Van Stockum, Brigadier General U. S. Marine Corps (Retired) and http://www.huffingtonpost.com/beth-crumley/marines-christmas-ww2_b_1162747.html



Lynn Thomas Gruber (December 5, 1859 – November 3, 1912; Interred: Section C, Lot/Row 60S1/2, Space 1) – Gruber with his father, Lewis Henry, and brother, Calvin, created the “look and charm” of Shelby County. As architect, builder, and civic leader, Lynn Gruber’s influence on the county and the county seat can still be seen 100 years after his passing in the buildings he designed and built that stand today as monuments to his genius and his integrity. Gruber designed Grove Hill Chapel, which was completed in 1893.

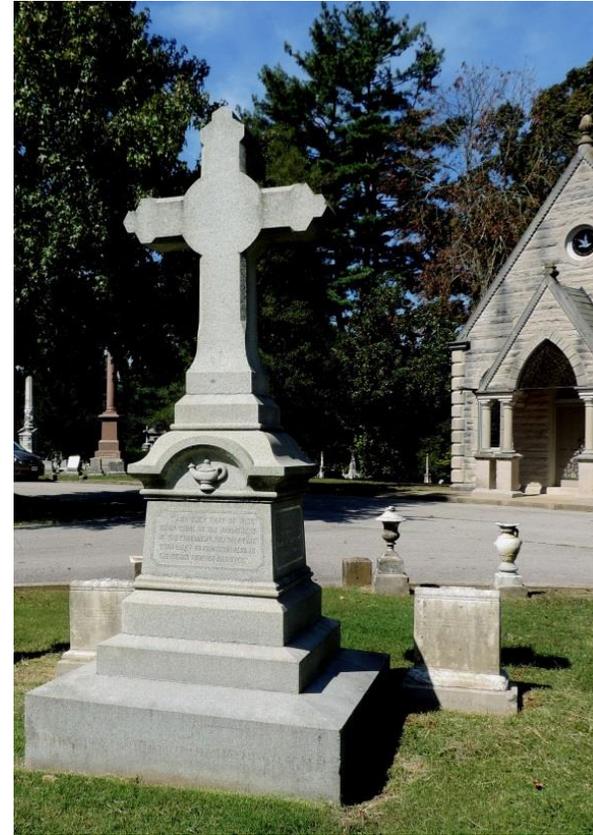




Julia Ann Hieronymus Tevis* (December 5, 1799- April 21, 1880; Interred: Section E, Lot/Row 86, Space 6) – She was born in Clark County KY but her family moved to Bristol Va., shortly after her birth. It was in Virginia that she met John Tevis, a Methodist minister. He eventually proposed marriage and asked her to move to Kentucky where he was called to

pastor at Louisville’s Methodist Church at the Falls of the Ohio. She said, “Yes... provided...” that he agreed she could open a school for girls.

That goal became a reality March 25, 1825 in Shelbyville KY where the



newlyweds had settled. Mrs. Tevis opened the school doors anxiously wondering if she would have enough students. To the young educator’s surprise 20 enrolled. Because of the school’s immediate success, John requested a transfer to the Methodist chapel just down the street where he served as pastor 1825-1827 until the demands of the school required his full attention.

Science Hill Female Academy (later named Science Hill School) on Washington Street (now home to Wakefield-Scarce Galleries) was one of the first schools for girls west of the Appalachia Mountains. In continuous

operation for 114 years, it became one of the premier college preparatory academies of the South attracting students from all over the United States. Girls and some boys from primary through high school and freshman level college courses were educated in the arts, sciences, math, history, languages, literature, astronomy and rhetoric. Accepting day students and boarders, Science Hill's students went on to graduate from Vassar, Wellesley, Radcliffe, Smith and other noted colleges or universities. The founder's creed was "Woman's mind is limitless. Help it to grow."

In 1857, there were 250 students. By the end of Mrs. Tevis' administration, 3,000 students had studied there. Her term ended March 25, 1879 when, on the recommendation of the Methodist Bishop, she sold the school to Dr. Wiley T. Poynter and his wife Clara Martin Poynter. When Mrs. Poynter died in 1937, their daughter Juliet took over as principal while their other daughter Harriet became the music instructor. After the school closed in 1939, Misses Juliet and Harriet retained the western portion of the original structure as a home. The eastern portion of the grounds was leased in 1947 by Mark Wakefield and Mark J. Scarce to establish an antique gallery. In 1961, Scarce purchased the eastern portion. In 1965, he purchased the balance of the property with the Poynter sisters reserving the right to live in the west wing until their

deaths. They were born there in the late 1800s, and there they would die nearly 100 years later... Miss Harriet in 1982 in the same bed in which she was born in 1884. (The sisters are buried at Grove Hill. Interred: Section P, Lot/Row 77E1/2, Spaces 5 & 6)

Mrs. Tevis died April 21, 1880 at the age of 80. That May her students and her children erected the monument at Grove Hill. It is a prominent cross just outside the chapel's front door flanked by the monuments for her husband (January 6, 1792-January 26, 1861) and their children. On each side of the monument are inscriptions that reflect the educator's character, including the scripture pictured here from Daniel 12:3 KJV.

An inscription on the monument's south side extolls her virtues in a verse from Matthew Arnold's poetic work "Westminster Abbey": "with instinct sure, and goodness warm, and truth



without alloy, and temper sweet, and love of all things



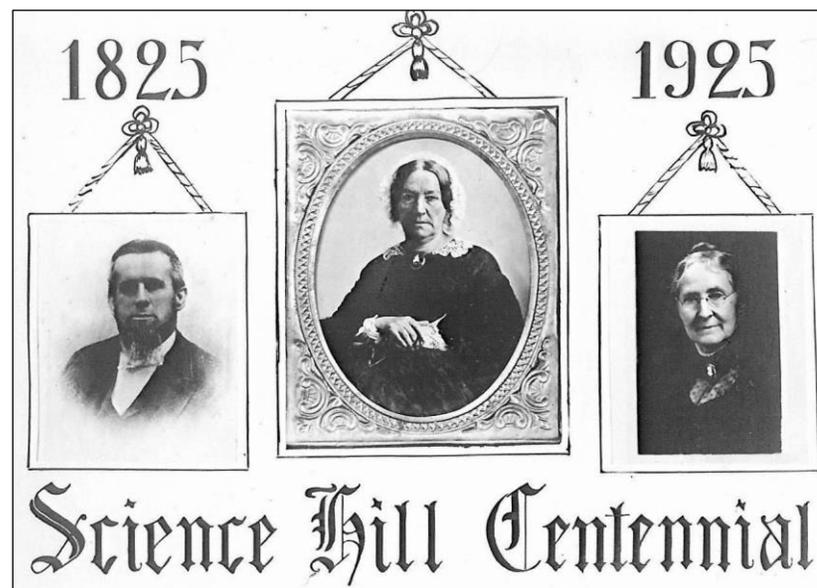
pure, and joy in light, and power to spread the joy.”

Rev. Tevis donated a lot at Fifth and Main along with \$1,600 in 1857 for the construction of a new Methodist church. It replaced the Methodist’s first brick structure, popularly called the Meeting

House, since the congregation allowed other denominations to use it. The bricks from the original structure were used to build an addition on Science Hill School. Rev. Tevis also donated \$200 toward building the Church of the Annunciation.

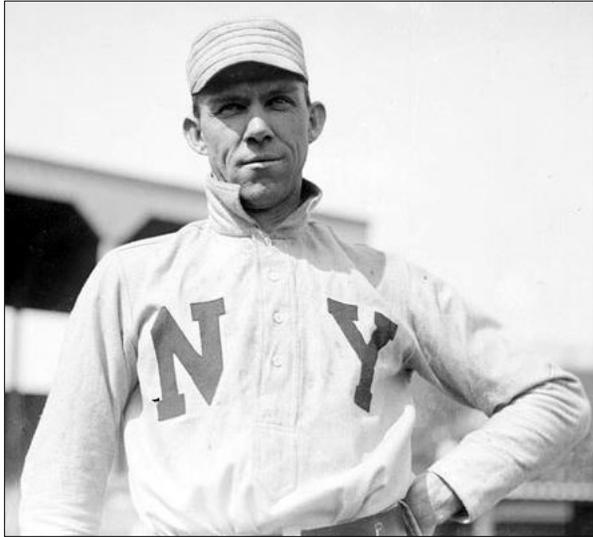
The 1857 Methodist church was torn down for a larger structure completed in 1897. A large art glass window of a young woman was given in memory of the school’s founders by their former students. A smaller stained glass window in the center, west side of the church tower was donated in memory of Rev. & Mrs. Tevis when the church was rebuilt following a devastating fire in 1978. The earlier window was not replaced. One

of the Tevis’ seven children, Dr. Benjamin Pendleton Tevis (December 28, 1824-January 1, 1899) was on the first board of stewards for the “new” Methodist church in 1857. He was also the superintendent of the graded public school and the St. James College in the 1870s. Across the path from the Tevis plot is a marker for her sister, Arabella Clement Hieronymus (Interred: Section B, Lot/Row 1, Space 2) who married Henry H. Martin. He built the Greek revival home on Washington Street, a short distance from the Tevis cottage. The Martin structure burned in early 2013.



L-r: Dr. Wiley T. Poynter, Julia Ann Hieronymus, Mrs. Clara Martin Poynter

*Mrs. Tevis spelled her maiden name Hieronymus. Rev. Tevis spelled it Hieronymous. Both spellings came from their individual autobiographies.



**Dennis
Lawrence
"Dan"
McGann**

(July 15,
1871-
December
13, 1910;
Section B,
Lot/Row 11,
Space 6)- A
native of
Shelbyville,
he was also

known as Cap McGann as a professional baseball player who played first base in the Major League Baseball from 1896 to 1908. McGann began his professional baseball career in Minor League Baseball with a team representing his hometown in 1891.

He was a member of the National League pennant-winning Brooklyn Superbas in 1899 and New York Giants from 1903-1908, being a member of the 1905 World Series champions, which Manager John McGraw considered being the best team he ever managed.

With the Giants, McGann stole 36 bases in the 1903 season and stole 42 bases in 1904, finishing fourth in the NL. He stole five bases on May 27, 1904, setting an NL

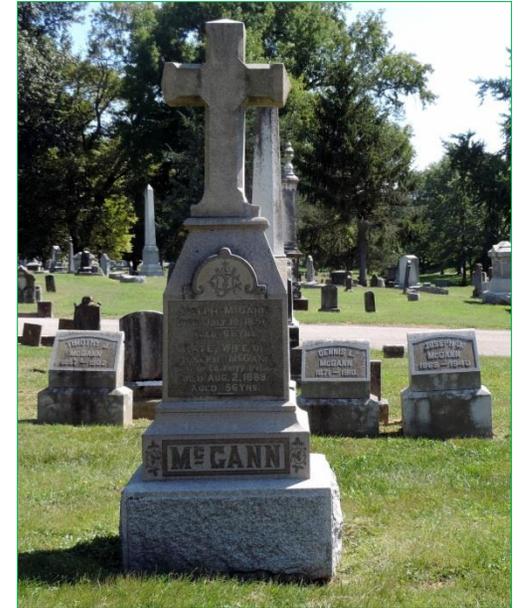
record. McGann's record stood until equaled by Davey Lopes who stole five bases in a game in 1974 and Otis Nixon stole six in a game in 1991.

McGann batted .299 with 14 triples in 1905 as the Giants won NL pennant for the second

consecutive year. Competing in the 1905 World Series, McGann batted .235 in the series and recorded four RBIs on three hits in a Game Three victory.

McGann played for the Milwaukee Brewers in 1909 and 1910. There were reports in 1911 that McGann might sign with the Oakland Oaks or a team in Louisville, which was near his home in Shelbyville.

McGann invested in real estate and financial holdings near his Shelbyville home during his career. At the time of his death in 1910, his property was assessed to be worth approximately \$40,000 (\$1,002,143 in current dollar terms).



There had been a series of family tragedies: One of McGann's sisters committed suicide in 1890 after their mother died. On New Year's Eve in 1907, one of McGann's brothers died as a result of an accidental shooting. In 1909, another one of McGann's brothers committed suicide.

On December 13, 1910, McGann was reported to have committed suicide by shooting himself in the heart at a Louisville hotel. At the time of his death, he was 39 years old, and reportedly had been "in the best of health and humor" when last seen. McGann was survived by two sisters, who, despite the family history of suicide, believed their brother had been murdered, as a diamond ring valued at \$800 (\$20,043 in current dollar terms) McGann had been seen wearing was missing.

Much of this article is copied directly from Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_McGann

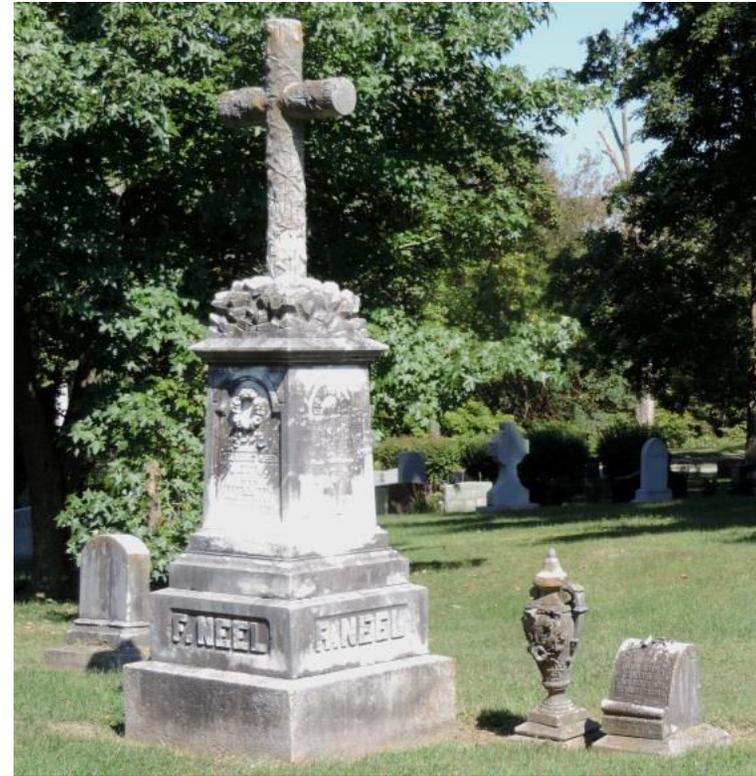


Fielding Neel (May 9, 1819- August 19, 1881; Interred: Section C, Lot/Row 83, Space 4) - A Colonel, he was a veteran of the Texas Revolution (war of independence from Mexico). As a minor, he ran away from home, joined the Texas forces, and remained there until the independence of Texas was won in 1836. He was with General Sam Houston at his inauguration as president of the Texas Republic.

Closer to home, the first Methodist church in Shelby County was formed in a log house on the Fielding Neel farm on Rockbridge Road. When the church was built at the corner of Fifth and Main in 1857, Neel was one of the officers and was a member of the building committee.

He was a state representative in 1859 - 1861. He was also a member of a local real estate firm of Neel, Ballard & Co, which included Neel, John T. Ballard and T.O. Shackelford. Neel was a director on the Shelby County Agricultural and Mechanical (A & M) Association when it was incorporated in 1858. The Shelby A & M has brought the community the Shelby County Fair since 1842.

As a youth, he was apprenticed to Colonel John McGaughey, a large manufacturer of saddles and harnesses. His second wife, Mrs. Pearce Noland, was McGaughey's daughter. Neel's first wife, Ellen, died in 1875.



His home, built in 1870, stood where the Shelby County High School was constructed in 1960.

He was one of seven killed in what is considered "the worst rail accident in local railroad history" September 8, 1881 at Floyd's Fork Creek.* He was president of the Shelby Railroad at the time, along with serving as a director of Farmers & Traders Bank.

There were 50-60 injured in the accident after which reports called Neel "a man of commanding form and possessed of a strong and vigorous brain power." It is interesting to note Neel's monument lists his date of death as August 19, 1881, an obvious mistake. There are other stones in Grove Hill with obvious mistakes. For example, see the stone of Lt. Richard T. Owen. Owen was a veteran of the Civil War, having fought for the Confederate States of America in Lee's Army in Northern Virginia. His stone makes mention of this but says he fought with "The Army of Northern Virginia, USA." You can tell where after manufacture, someone chiseled the "U" to make it look like a "C". Another example is the date of death on Reuben Dale's monument, which is "November 80th, 1866." Again, after manufacture, someone chiseled the "8" to make it a "3".

*Page 378 from *The New History of Shelby County Kentucky*