

lege Park. Mayor Garner, known for both his speaking and writing abilities, was often encouraged to run for state or national office. President Franklin D. Roosevelt once requested a letter written by the Mayor. The accomplishments of Mayor Garner live on through the John E. Garner Memorial Mayor's Award, an award designed to fulfill some of the requirements for the Boy Scouts of America "American Heritage Merit Badge."

**Dr. E.P. Guerrant**

**Section 18 (L-Woodlawn, Lot 153)**

Having established the Guerrant Clinic in 1927, Dr. Edward P. Guerrant was one of Winchester's most honored and notable physicians. Named in honor of his Father, Edward O. Guerrant, the Guerrant clinic served the poverty stricken communities of rural Appalachia for over 60 years. Many mountain people were uncomfortable about traveling to big cities for treatment. So patients would travel by horse, mule, stretcher, buckboard and the Lexington & Eastern Railroad. Patients of the Clinic and Hospital received first class medical attention and treatment was free for those who could not afford to pay. Today, Dr. Guerrant's legacy continues to live on through the opening of the Bluegrass Heritage Museum in the former Guerrant Clinic in October 2004.

**Joel T. Hart Angel Vase Sculpture  
Between Dr. T.H. Robinson (1825-1872)  
and James Hally (1784-1864)  
Section C (Central C, Lot 357)**

Considered an artistic genius of his time, Joel T. Hart is perhaps one of the most notable figures ever to hail from Clark County. Having only attended school for less than 3 months, Hart began his craft carving wood and stone in Clark County. After developing and perfecting his trade, Joel T. Hart moved to Florence, Italy to further study and enhance his renowned craftsmanship. Hart was known for his statues of Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, and his masterpiece "Woman Triumphant" that was considered "one of the most perfect masterpieces of sculpture the world has ever known". This marker, created by Hart, bares the elegance of a true craftsman and the face of an angel.

**General John Stuart Williams  
Section F (Central F, Lot 34)**

General John Stuart Williams, often referred to as "General Cerro Gordo Williams", because of his heroism during the Mexican war, was born in Montgomery County in 1818. A graduate from Oxford University, Williams began his law practice in Paris Kentucky and later became a legislator, state senator, and commissioned brigadier-general for the Confederate army during the Civil War. Perhaps General Williams is most famously noted for his brave ascent up Cerro Gordo, Mexico while leading the Independent Company of Kentucky. While other companies were on heavy retreat, Williams led his company to victory in what has become known as "one of the most notable instances of personal valor and prowess in the history of American Wars."

**Harold G. Epperson (1923-1944)  
Section H (Central H, Lot 202)**

While serving with the First Battalion, Sixth Marines, Second Marine Division, against brutal enemy Japanese forces, Private First Class Epperson went above and beyond the call of duty by sacrificing his own life to save the lives of his comrades. On June 25, 1944, while maintaining defense from a steady stream of Japanese gunfire, a Japanese soldier assumed to be dead, sprang forward and launched an explosive grenade into the emplacement. Determined to save his comrades, Private Harold G. Epperson selflessly threw himself over the shattering grenade and absorbed the fatal explosion with his body. By unhesitatingly giving his life for his own country and fellow man, Private Epperson's heroic actions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service. Private First Class Harold G. Epperson was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman.

**S.P. Kerr (1839-1906)  
Section D (Western D, Lot 147)**

Smith P. Kerr was a distinguished and prominent businessman in the city of Winchester. After purchasing the Eclipse Mills on Broadway, Kerr revived the once bankrupt company and turned it into one of the leading flour producers in the state of Kentucky. Kerr also planned and constructed a handsome commercial building on the corner of Main and Broadway in 1889 known as the Kerr Business Block. The building was built over the Town Branch, the first major water supply for the early settlers in the late 18th century. After becoming one of Winchester's most beloved citizens, Kerr died at his home on Belmont Avenue in 1906.



*As you walk along the paths of the Winchester Cemetery you may notice the unique individuality of each tombstone. Some stones bare characteristics of the persons they memorialize while others convey hidden messages or meanings that are overlooked by the human eye. The following is a selection of the possible carvings and engravings you may find while in the cemetery.*

- Anchor** hope, eternal life, may symbolize seafaring profession
- Angel** messenger between God and man
- Ant** Christian industry
- Anvil** martyrdom
- Banner** victory, triumph
- Bees** resurrection; the risen Christ
- Bibles, books** wisdom, resurrection through the scriptures
- Birds flying** flight of the soul back to God
- Columns with gate** heavenly entrance
- Crown** reward of faithful, righteousness, resurrection
- Dove** peace, purity, innocence; messenger of God carrying soul to heaven
- Drapery over anything** sorrow, mourning
- Flame** eternity
- Hands** devotion, prayer
- Heart with anchor and cross** faith, hope, and charity
- Horns** resurrection
- Hourglass** swift passage of earthly time
- Ivy** friendship, memory, fidelity
- Lamb** innocence, Christ; most common 19th century child's marker
- Lamp** word of God, truth, good works
- Lily** purity, resurrection
- Olive** peace; healing faith
- Pineapple** hospitality
- Scroll** the law, scriptures
- Sheep and goats** Christians and non-believers
- Snake** sin; fall of man; Satan
- Snake with tail in mouth** eternity
- Star, five pointed** Star of Bethlehem; star of Jacob; divine guidance and protection
- Three points, three leaves, three of anything** the holy Trinity
- Torch** enlightenment
- Tree** faith; life; Tree of Life
- Tree trunk** premature death
- Trumpet** Day of Judgment, resurrection
- Urn** soul, mortality
- Wreath** victory in death; crown worn by triumphant Christian



**Visiting Hours**

The cemetery has no specific visiting hours and is open year-round. With the compliance of respectful visitors, the cemetery will remain open for public enjoyment.

**Office Hours**

8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday - Friday

**Winchester Cemetery Co., Inc.**

625 West Lexington Avenue  
Winchester, Kentucky 40391

For additional information on the history of Winchester or other areas of interest please contact:

**The Winchester-Clark County  
Tourism Commission**

2 South Maple Street  
Winchester, KY 40391

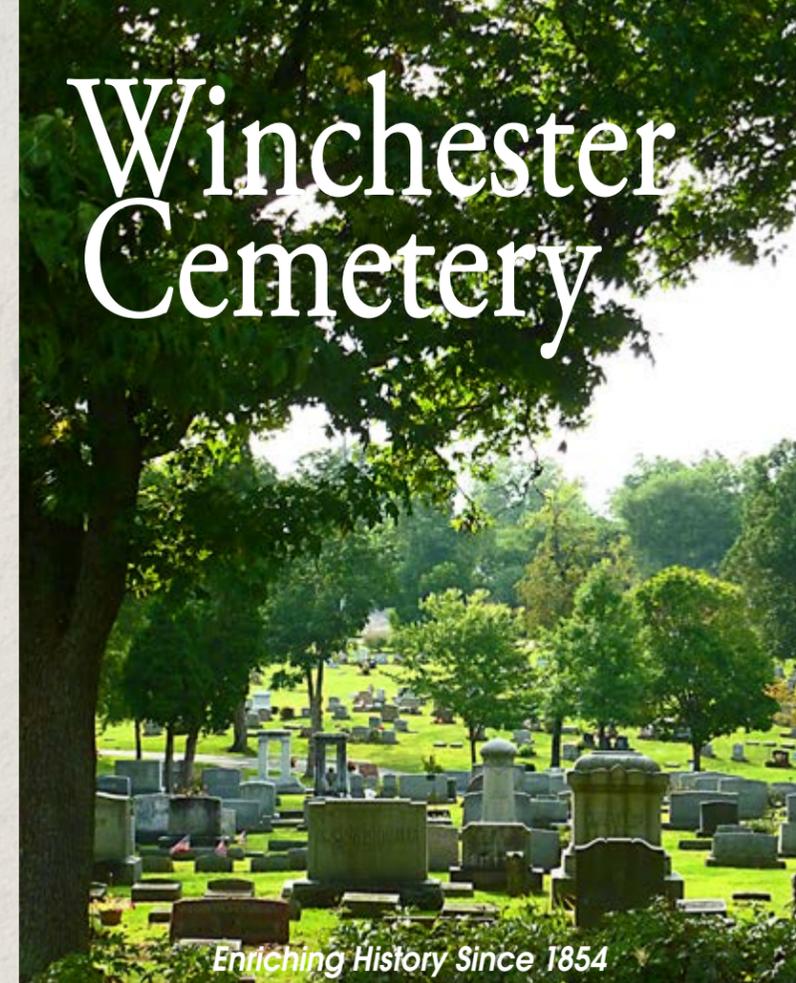
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UNBRIDLED SPIRIT  
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# Winchester Cemetery



*Enriching History Since 1854*

## A Walking Tour

### Walk Through Time...

Throughout the grounds of the Winchester Cemetery, a silent whisper can be heard about a people and place. Rich in history, the Cemetery encompasses the story of a 200 year old community through those who have been memorialized within its grounds. As you stroll through along the winding paths, listen to the tale of a day gone by. Tales of triumph and tragedy, heartbreak and laughter, and peace and war saturate the monument covered landscape. Much more than just a place for burial, the cemetery represents a lasting testimony to the people who helped shape a community.

Although everyone interred in the cemetery has an important story to tell, a select few have been chosen to highlight the diverse history on a self-guided walking tour. From the founder of Winchester, John Baker, to the most tragic happening in the city, the collapse of the Pastime Theatre, the stars on the map will guide you along your walk. May the history of Winchester come alive and enlighten your heart...

**Please be mindful that the cemetery is a resting place for those who have passed. As visitors, the utmost courtesy and respect is appreciated.**

*Winchester Cemetery Co., Inc.  
625 West Lexington Avenue  
Winchester, Kentucky 40391*



### Receiving Vault, Section E (Central E)

The receiving vault was for the temporary use of withholding bodies until burial. Many bodies were held until family members were contacted and could make their journey to Winchester. The remains of any person who had died of small pox, yellow fever, scarlet fever or other contagious disease, were not to be withheld and the Association had the right to refuse any bodies during extreme warm weather or the occurrence of epidemic. The receiving vault has since been renovated and is now the cemetery's only mausoleum.

### Capt. Leeland Hathaway (1834-1909) Section 4 (Central 4, Lot 28)

After hearing that Mrs. Jefferson Davis, with her children and four slaves, was planning an escape flight to the Florida Coast, Capt. Leeland Hathaway volunteered his assistance. Confederate president Jefferson Davis later joined the group in Georgia where Hathaway commanded the President's bodyguard. While encamped in a pine grove at Irwinville, Georgia, the party was surrounded and captured by troops. With the intervention of his father and President Andrew Johnson, Hathaway was released from federal prison and returned to Winchester to start a prominent law office on Court Street. Capt. Hathaway is buried with his wife and daughter.

### Dr. Andrew Hood (Nov. 6, 1859) Section 4 (Central 4, Lot 52)

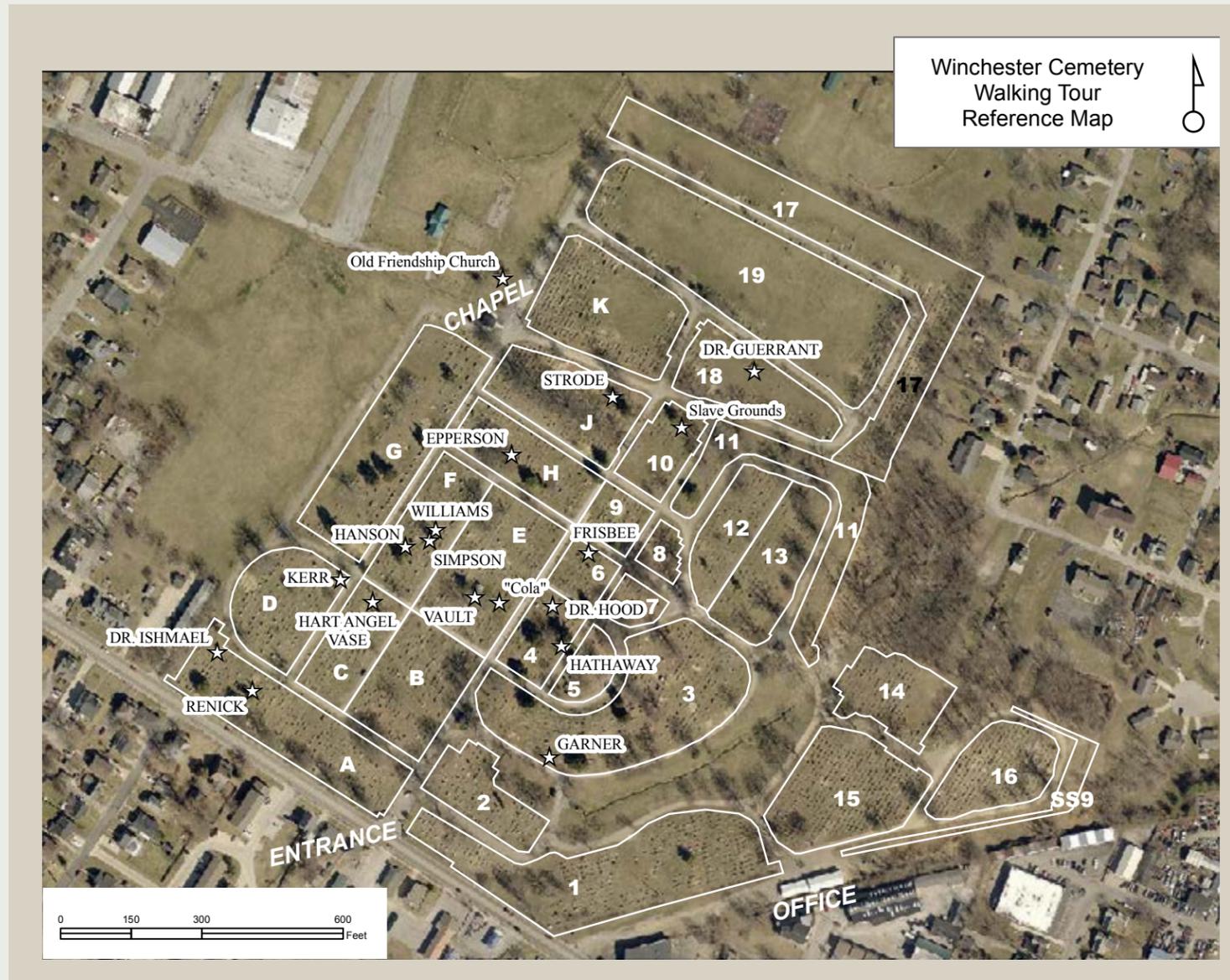
Chosen as a delegate to the Kentucky Constitutional Convention of 1849-50, Dr. Andrew Hood was a local politician and well-known doctor. Known for his witty sense of humor, an 84 year old patient complained she could no longer hear well. Dr. Hood dryly remarked, "You've already heard enough."

### Old Friendship Church, Next to Chapel

Commissioned in 1812 on one acre of land, the old friendship church graveyard is the oldest area of the cemetery. Although many graves are unmarked and only a few remain, many believe that John Baker, founder of Winchester who died in 1803, is buried here. Baker, who hailed from Winchester, Virginia, donated 66 acres of land in what is presently downtown Winchester. Among the markers is a slab of stone that honors Sarah Kelly (1773-1859), wife of Griffin Kelly, a famed Revolutionary War Veteran, Indian fighter, and spy. Two other Revolutionary War soldiers are also buried in the area. Plans are in the works to erect a monument in honor of the city founder's grave.

### Hanson brothers - Isaac Hanson and Samuel K. Hanson Section F (Central F, Lot. 4)

The American Civil War was the bloodiest battle ever to be fought on American soil. Much like the rest of the nation, Clark County felt the effects of the life shattering events. Supplying at least 500 men to both sides of the War, Clark County families were



being torn apart as friends and loved ones were unsure if they would be returning home. Perhaps the effects of the Civil War impacted the lives of the Hanson family of Clark County most dramatically. Five brothers, split apart by their differences, enlisted on opposing sides. Col. Charles S. Hanson, hero of the battle of Lebanon, July 1863, and Pvt. Samuel K. Hanson, who died in service, both fought for the USA. Brig. General Roger Hanson, mortally wounded in the Battle of Stone's River, Jan. 2, 1863, Pvt. Richard Hanson and Pvt. Isaac S. Hanson all for the Confederate States of America.

### Slave Grounds - Pauper Corner Section 10 (Section H-I)

This open area is believed to be the unmarked graves of early Clark County slaves. Many times, slaves were buried in the rear of the cemetery so that their master's would be the first to see the second-coming of Christ. At one time, this area was also known as "Pauper Corner" and believed to be the site of the unmarked graves of some of Winchester's poorest citizens.

### Capt. John Strode (1729-1805) Section J (Single Section #7, Lot 337)

A Revolutionary War veteran, John Strode came to Kentucky in 1776 and inventoried the land for a possible settlement. In 1779, Strode and a band of men from Boonesborough built thirty cabins and a stockade making it the largest and most important fortified settlement in Clark County. The settlement, later called Strode's Station, provided protec-

tion from both the British and Indians, was the site of a Revolutionary War scuffle, reared the first white child in Clark County, and established Clark County's first school. During the construction of Winchester's bypass in 1965, a cemetery was unearthed with what is believed to be the remains of Captain John Strode and his wife. One of the large cast-iron caskets contained the remains of a woman fully clothed in a grey dress wearing a bonnet and gloves with flesh the color of snow. The graves of the pioneers found have been interred here in the Winchester Cemetery.

### Pastime Theatre Tragedy Frisbee Boys - Houston & George Frisbee Section 6 (Central 6, Lot 108)

On March 9, 1918, a large crowd filled the aisles of the Pastime Theatre for another Saturday night production. At 7:45 p.m., just before the windup of the first performance, the walls from a neighboring building collapsed and caved in the back end of the theatre near the stage. Ten people were killed instantly, including seven children. (It was customary for children to sit in front of the stage during performances) Among those killed were the sons of Colonel Frisbee. Houston Frisbee, aged 12 years, and George Frisbee, aged 10 years, are seen here buried side by side. Also killed was Tommy Thomas, aged 12 years, brother of renowned White House Correspondent Helen Thomas. Witnesses say that the crash was heard in all parts of the city and is still to this day considered Winchester's worst catastrophe ever.



### Dr. J.W. Ishmael (1850-1920) Section A (Western A, Lot 206)

Practicing medicine in Winchester for 36 years, Dr. Ishmael was among Winchester's most beloved and prominent physicians. A tribute in the local newspaper in the year of his death stated, "He completely forgot about himself in service for others, as he went about administering to physical suffering, pouring nectar into some fainting soul, stewing the pathway with sunshine and making the pillow of the suffering." Dr. Ishmael lived in the former Guerrant Clinic, the present day Bluegrass Heritage Museum.

### Abram Renick (1863-1933) Section A (Weston A, Lot 220)

Abram Renick, like many farmers of the 19th Century, utilized the lavish green pastures of the Clark County Region to become royalty of the cattle empire. The short-horn cattle business not only supplied the county with economic revenue, but with beef, milk, butter, leather, and labor. Renick gained his reputation when he began to export cattle to Lord Dunmore of Scotland and turned the tables on cattle trading. Renick's reputation is immortalized by the towering monument decorated with his bearded portrait and cattle sculptures. The crown that caps off the monument is said to symbolize his title as king of the short-horn cattle of Clark County. In 1901, Renick, then a legislator, sponsored the bill to create the Kentucky State Fair.

### "Cola" Section 1, next to Mausoleum (Central 3, Lot 18)

Buried here at the foot of his master, Cola is believed to be the only animal buried in the cemetery. Today, no pets are allowed anywhere on cemetery grounds.

### Mayor James D. Simpson (1845-1921) Section F (Central F, Lot 33)

Nearly 110 years after its incorporation, Winchester elected its first mayor in 1882. Mayor Simpson, having come from a political background, was 36 years old when he took office and remained Winchester's youngest mayor until the election of Dodd Dixon in 1998. Mayor Simpson commissioned and helped fund the Winchester Opera House, also known as the Simpson Music Hall, in an attempt to bring cultural enlightenment to the city of Winchester. One of Simpson's former homes, a towering white house, can still be seen standing on the corner of Maple Street and Boone Avenue.

### Mayor John Edwin Garner (1851-1941) Section 3 (B3, Lot 90)

Recognized as one of Winchester's most distinguished and notable mayors, Mayor John E. Garner was considered a pioneer of his day. Known for making education one of his top priorities, Mayor Garner is credited for establishing the first college in Winchester when Kentucky Wesleyan broke ground in what is present day Col-