

Greenwood Cemetery Association
PO Box 55783
Jackson, MS 39296-5783

**NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 670
JACKSON MS**



November 2017

Bicentennial Project Spurs Need for Funds

The City of Jackson is expecting large crowds to celebrate the State's bicentennial and the opening of the Mississippi History Museum and the Civil Rights Museum on December 9. In anticipation of visitors to the City, the cemetery board voted to proceed with the restoration of the old iron fence on George and West Streets. The fence was installed in the mid 1980's and was badly in need of repair. Independent Metal Craft, LLC of Clinton, MS, the company which installed the fence on Lamar Street earlier this year, is handling the repairs and painting. Total cost of this project will be \$27,275.

Work to be done on the fence includes replacing 23 fence panels and more than 225 pickets, resetting crooked posts, repairing the decorative gates, including fabricating finials to match those which are lost, treating rust spots, priming and painting 327 fence panels stretching on the south end of Lamar Street beyond the ditch, all fence on George Street except that recently repainted by Boy Scouts, all fence on West Street and all fence on Davis Street. When the job is complete, the entire cemetery fence will look new! Work began several weeks ago and is on schedule to be completed before the bicentennial events.

The board is thrilled that donations through the years have enabled us to proceed with this ambitious project. However, it will leave our treasury nearly depleted! So, once again, we are turning to our loyal and generous donors to ask for support. In this season of giving, please include Greenwood Cemetery on your list. Your board is very aware of the importance of spending wisely and frugally, but the needs of this historic place are continual. Brickwork needs to be repaired, the interior gravel roads are disappearing and the Summer House needs carpentry and paint. We are very grateful for the efforts of volunteers who assist with maintenance, but many jobs require the expertise of professionals. We walk a fine line between expending precious funds to preserve the historic character, or allowing eager volunteers to do the work. Please show your support with a generous donation.

A contribution to Greenwood Cemetery Association is the perfect way to honor or memorialize a friend or family member. Use the donation form to let us know your intention. An acknowledgment will be sent to the person you indicate.

Dues and donations to the General Fund are used to purchase supplies for cleaning and maintenance, and to pay for professional services and for the printing and mailing of the newsletter. Donations of \$50 or more are acknowledged by mail, but contributions in any amount are very much appreciated!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Donation to General Fund or Fence Fund

Is your gift in honor or memory of a person or event? If yes:

Name of honoree _____

Notification to be sent to: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



137 Years of History

The first recorded Cemetery Association was formed in 1880 with Mrs. W. L. Nugent as president. No details are known as to the activities of the organization or how long it remained active.

In 1925, the association was reorganized as the Greenwood-Cedarlawn Association with Mrs. Isham Beard as president. That organization also waned, but was reorganized in 1957 with Mrs. Beard again serving as president until her death in 1982.

In 1983, R. James Young, husband of Mrs. Beard's granddaughter, assumed the presidency. Under his tenure the cemetery received, from the City, two grants of \$30,000 each which paid for the installation of the iron fence on George and West streets.

Peter Miazza took the reins about 1990. After many years as president, Peter remains a loyal and active member of the board and spends many hours each month working to improve the cemetery.

The present organization has established a pattern of two-year service in the office of president with the vice president then moving up. Ray Allard is in his second year as president and Robert Hauberg will assume office at the annual meeting in May.



Mexican tarragon bloomed for the "Day of the Dead" on the Sharkey plot just north of the circle. This plot, encircled by a beautiful brick border, was previously filled with weeds. It is now a garden spot with roses, iris and a variety of spring and summer blooming bulbs.

Landscape Efforts Through the Years

Much volunteer time and effort has been expended in recent years to improve the landscaping in Greenwood Cemetery. The earliest recorded landscape project was in 1879 when Col. Richardson contributed \$2,000 to the City for improvements at the cemetery. A committee was appointed to oversee the work. The members were authorized to "grade, dig or fill such roads, avenues and walks, and remove therefrom such trees, plants and other obstacles as may best accord with their plan of improvement, and may also cut, trim or remove all trees that may be desired." Alderman Hamilton presented the resolution "that in order to complete the improvements and beautify the City cemetery, that all owners of lots and grounds ...are hereby requested to improve the same, have the trees trimmed, and plant such trees and shrubbery as they may be able to do, this winter and the coming spring, and that this Board will assist in improving the graves of the unknown and neglected dead, and the graves of those who have none living to assist in this work."

The northeast section of the cemetery has a beautiful canopy of old trees and there is an avenue of mature oak trees along the West Street fence on either side of Col. Richardson's monument. Perhaps the oaks were planted at that time, and possibly the magnificent crepe myrtles, magnolia trees and camellia bushes in other areas of the cemetery.

Undoubtedly the most recognizable landscape feature at Greenwood is the magnificent wisteria arches which bloom in early May each year. We have not found a record of their installation.

A newspaper article in 1960 states that at a meeting of the Cemetery association at the municipal art gallery." A discussion in regard to dogwood and redbud trees and various types of bulbs which will be planted in uniform patterns throughout the cemetery was led by Mrs. John Sadler." No uniform patterns are discernible in the current cemetery but several interesting varieties of bulbs have been observed in recent years.

The cemetery newsletter in 1985 states that the new wrought iron fence at the intersection of George and North West Streets has been dropped back to form a recessed area for landscaping at the entrance. Donations were requested for this and other possible landscape projects. That area remains unadorned!

Alexander G. McNutt, Twelfth Governor of Mississippi: 1838-1842

By David G. Sansing

*This is the fourth in a series of articles about the seven Mississippi governors who are buried in Greenwood Cemetery. We are grateful to **Mississippi History Now** for permission to reprint.*



Alexander G. McNutt
(1801-1848)
Twelfth Governor
1838-1842
Courtesy, Mississippi Department

of Archives and History

McNutt had migrated to Mississippi from Rockbridge, Virginia, where he was born in 1801. After graduating from Washington College, which is now Washington and Lee, McNutt moved to Jackson where he practiced law briefly before moving to Vicksburg. In 1833 he married Elizabeth Cameron, the wealthy widow of a business partner, and acquired a large plantation along Deer Creek in Warren County.

Governor McNutt was an accomplished though little-known humorist and published a number of very popular hunting tales in the New York publication *The Spirit of the Times*, which had 40,000 subscribers and was very popular in the Old Southwest. His writings included tales of frontier life and his characterizations of frontiersmen were similar to the better known *Georgia Scenes* by Augustus Longstreet.

In 1842 McNutt was defeated in his bid for the U. S. Senate and, while trying to make a political comeback, he died on the campaign trail at Cockrum's Crossroads in DeSoto County on October 22, 1848. The old county seat of Sunflower County was named in honor of Mississippi's twelfth governor. But when Leflore County was established, the county seat was moved from McNutt to Greenwood, and McNutt gradually became extinct.

