

## “HERE LIES EVANSVILLE” TOUR OF OAK HILL CEMETERY

21 MAY 1989 & 19 MAY 1991

Oak Hill was a thicket of brambles and briars, known as “Lost Hill” before the cemetery was established.

1. “Willow Lake” island is called “Johnson Island” and is the burial place of E. Mead Johnson and members of his family. Johnson was the founder of the Mead Johnson Company, one of the city’s primary corporate citizens since 1915. The main feature of the island is the “Temple of Love” that was erected on the island in 1934 when Johnson died. It is constructed of granite and is of classical Greek/Roman design.
2. Mausoleum “city” surrounds the lake.
3. Hartmetz mausoleum; typical temple style; granite/bronze doors; Scholz Monument Company; 1916. John Hartmetz was the founder of the Evansville Brewing Association, forerunner of Sterling Brewery.
4. Henry family stone – statue with uplifted face. (“Hope?”)
5. Bacon family – AlbionBray” books, is also buried in Oak Hill in the Johnston plot just southeast of Viele Circle.
6. Lee Howell – steamboatman and district superintendent for the L&N Rail Road, after whom the town of Howell was named.
7. Miller marker; might note the verse “let me live in the side of the road,” etc.
8. “Well head.” Of more recent vintage.
9. Administration Building. Erected 1899 just to the east of the early cemetery building. Romanesque design built with Bedford limestone and features a red tile roof and porches that encircle the building. The design was by the Harris & Shopbell firm. The placement of the building gives it a ceremonial aspect. (Might mention at this point that the main gateway, with its lime-stone pillars, tiled roof and iron gates – was also the design of H&S, only in 1901.) Neither the Administration Building or the gateway have changed much over the past decades.
10. Charles H. Butterfield – lawyer, judge; Lt. in the Evansville Rifles of the Indiana Legion 1861; Civil War Colonel, (Raised 91<sup>st</sup> Regt., Lt. Col., spring 1863 to end of war – fought at Chattanooga to Atlanta, Nashville; Mayor of Evansville, 1873-74. (No concrete link known at this time with the Butterfield of Smith & Butterfield.)
11. Grese and Micker markers. Two separated columns joined at top with “vater u(ndt) mutter” inscribed above the arch. Will see nearly identical markers at various spots in cemetery. Some will feature the joined hands, further symbolizing the togetherness of husband and wife during life and in death.
12. Troup stone – polished pink granite like the stout columns on the front of the Old Post Office. William Troup – born in Aberdeen, Scotland 1818.
13. John Douglas obelisk – the obelisk form related to myths of solar ascension and was copied from the Egyptians. “Ascension” may be the key to its cemetery use. 1837 town trustee, banker. Douglas died 1863. Epitaph: “Those who knew him best, loved him most.”
14. Decker stone. Markers will also sometimes expand on the information of a person. This one has “Kommen Nacht America.”
15. Veronica Knauss. D. 1876. Note carved garland.
16. Marcus Sherwood - Established the Sherwood House Hotel at Locust & 1<sup>st</sup> Streets in 1839. The hotel was Evansville’s “best” before the St. George was built across the street (present McCurdy site) in 1874. (Note the impermanence of marble as opposed to that of granite – the “Rock of Ages.” Granite was first used here in the late 1870’s for burial markers. Might also note the Sherwood House was razed to make way for the 1905 Elks Club which, in turn, was razed after a destructive fire in 1977. The site is now just another downtown parking lot.)
17. John S. Goodge headstone – most ornate lettering seen in Oak Hill. Goodge was sexton of the Mulberry Street cemetery and subsequently, sexton of Oak Hill from 1853 to his death in 1897.

18. Dr. George B. Walker. Came to Evansville 1835. Associated with Medical College of Evansville and Walker Sanitarium – which evolved into Welborn Hospital.
19. E.Q. Smith – one of the City's pioneer furniture manufacturers; his supply mill was located on the present Museum site and his chair manufacturing company was on NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Opened a steam powered chair factory at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Ohio 1858. The Smith monument is of granite and, as Ken noted, it has an East Lake cast to its style, with fringes and fancy upright members.
20. John & Mary Nugent monument. Steamboatman and one of the contractors on Old Courthouse The form – rectangular with flat top – is derived from either the Greek sarcophagus or the Egyptian mastaba.
21. James Lockart, d. 1857. Judge & Congressman. Only base of marker remains. Democrat.
22. Benjamin Stinson 1853 Postmaster of Evansville.
23. Daniel Chute: First Evansville teacher, 1822. (Down Hill from Stinson)
24. Thomas Peelar, d. 1895. Husband of Louisa (or Mary Louise) Chandler Peelar, daughter of John J. and Polly Chandler. Statue pointing toward heaven.
25. John J. Chandler. Lawyer. Owned large tract of land around 4<sup>th</sup>/Parrett and Chandler Streets. Chandler plot entrance. D. 1872.
26. Rev. Joseph Wheeler –he was a Methodist circuit rider. Conducted service in 1819 service at McGary's.
27. Garvin-Baker plots. Thomas E Garvin. Lawyer and land developer. Law partner of Conrad Baker. Major & Judge Advocate of 2<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Indiana Legion at its founding 1861; Garvin Park was his family's picnic grove. In 1915, the City paid about \$55,000 to the heirs for the land that today is Garvin Park and the site of Bosse Field.
28. Mayor William Baker and Governor Conrad Baker monument. William was mayor of Evansville 1859-68 and 1871-72 (died in 72). His brother Conrad was Lt. Gov. of Indiana, 1864-1867, and Governor, 1867-1872. Mayor Baker's marble "oval" tomb, executed by the Uhlhorn stone works in 1873, has disappeared; probably simply fell apart since at that time, marble marker and tomb stone elements were joined by copper rods.
29. John S. Hopkins obelisk. Hopkins was Evansville's second mayor: 1853-56. State representative. Prominent banker and early railroad man.
30. Elisha Babcock. Came to Evansville 1837 – wholesale grocer and saddle.
31. Col. James G. Jones, First mayor of Evansville 1847-53. Judge Col. 42 Indiana 1861-65, fought at Perryville, Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga, Atlanta, March to the Sea, Savannah, Charleston.
32. Rev. Robert Parrett, founder of Trinity Methodist. Born England, came to Evansville from Posey County 1825. B. 1791, emigrated from England 1816.
33. Gen. & Mrs. Robert M. Evans' graves –vaults surrounded by chains. The top slabs have been stone cleaned . Vaults are in good shape, but look at the awful condition of the vault of their daughter, Julianne, adjoining to the south. Evansville named after Evans. (Might bring in that McGary, one of the founders of the city, is not buried in Evansville.). NOTE: The Evans grave sites have been recently fixed up (by the Vand Co Hist. Soc. involved)
34. Evans obelisk. Note names, among others of the two Evans grandsons – Paul and Robert Jr. – who shot each other in a drunken tavern brawl. (Jan 7, 1861) Also, that of their mother, Saleta, who founded Evans Hall (site of present Central Library) and dedicated it to the cause of temperance.

35. Samuel Vickery obelisk. (1832-1912) Wholesale grocer. Many of Evansville's family fortunes were founded on a regional wholesale trade enabled first by the steamboat, followed by railroad transportation.
36. William Dallam stone, with statue of bowed grief. Businessman involved with banking.
37. Ella Johnson 1<sup>st</sup> burial. 18 Feb 1853 2 years old. Daughter of Feilding and Mary Johnson. Fielding moved to Kansas to keep as a part of campaign to keep slavery from spreading there.
38. Leslie Igleheart – 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of the Iglehart milling company that was absorbed in 1926 into General Foods. Foods. The Igleheart Swans Down Cake Flour, originated in the 1890s, is the older firm's most famous product, while Kool-Aid, Postum and Pop Tarts fame is that of General Foods. Iglehearts (and Igleharts) were a large family; several of their plots are scattered about the cemetery.
39. Christian Decker "Father of Germans." Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century piano maker.(West side of road.)
40. Dr. Madison J. Bray. One of Evansville's pioneer physicians and surgeons. Came to town in 1835 and lived to write the chapter on local medicine in the 1889 county history. Surgeon of the 60<sup>th</sup> Ind Infantry 1861-62. Naturally, in this respect, he plays a prominent part in that facet of the city's history.
41. Gus Mattingly – "Drown trying to save the lives of others July 28, 1899"
42. Charles Kellogg – partner with Edward Boetticher in Botticher-Kellogg.
43. James E. Blythe obelisk. Prominent Civil War-era attorney. At beginning of the war was Col. of the Indiana Legion regiment in Evansville – the state militia unit here. By end of the war was Brig. Gen of Legion brigade here
44. Rev. and Mrs. Albion Fellows (nee Mary Erskine). Parents of Albion Fellows Bacon, Annie Fellows Johnston, and Lura Fellows Heilman. Rev. Fellows was the minister at the time the present Trinity Methodist Church at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut Streets was built.
45. Katie Sawyer Thomas.  
Born in 1862; grew up in her parents' house at 810 SE First Street. At age 22, married Richard A. Thomas of Louisville in January 1883. One year later, in May (1884), Katie gave birth to a little girl. The new born survived, but Katie died during the birth. The child would have been named after Katie's mother, Elizabeth, months later, though, baby "Katie" died.  
In August 1900, when Dr. Sawyer died it was related in his obituary that he was "buried beside his beloved daughter (Katie), whose death brought great sorrow into his life. He had often said that he desired very much to go and be with her, that the only thing that bound him here were the ties of his family." (By way of note, the survivors given in his obituary were his wife Elizabeth and another daughter, Mrs. W. M. Newell of Washington, D.C.)  
Right in back of the statue, close to the ground on a little pedestal, is a nosegay of flowers executed in marble. I think that on the pedestal is the name "Katie." The stones looked like they may have been moved around.
46. George Rathbone, obelisk with draped urn. Prominent banker – Evansville National Bank ( The predecessor bank of Old National Bank.) The Rathbone Home on SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street was built by his wife and sister as a memorial to him. From 1905 to about 1961 it served as a home for "gentlewomen," principally retired school teachers. The Home was closed in 1983. After a renovation and expansion project, up-scale apartment living was offered for several years. However, since 1988 as the Rathbone Retirement community, the original mission of the Rathbone Home has continued to be carried out.
47. Elizabeth Harrison -- an old sandstone marker, the oldest marker in the cemetery—note headstone AND footstone. The tombstone is an example of Indiana Whetstone that was quarried in Orange County, Indiana. Relocated to Oak Hill possibly from the first grave yard in the city which was at 4<sup>th</sup> and Vine (Now a parking lot next to the old jail) d. July, 17, 1818.

48. Asa Iglehart Noted lawyer and judge.
49. Alvah Johnson – During the Civil War he was a local provost marshal for the military draft
50. John Watson Foster: U.S. Minister to Mexico, Russia and Spain; U.S. Secretary of State (June 1892-February 1893). Wife, Mary Parke, Foster, president-general of the D.A.R., 1895-96. Parents-in-law of Robert Lansing, President Wilson's Secretary of State. Grandparents of John Foster Dulles, secretary of state and of Allen Dulles, head of the CIA, during the administration of President Eisenhower.
51. William Heilman. German immigrant. Founded Heilman Machine Works and a plow company (later known as Vulcan Plow under Maj. Albert C. Rosencraz). Came to Evansville 1847 and opened up a machine shop; first portable steam engine 1854; 1859 first thresher; bought into Evansville Cotton mill 1866; plows 1874; railroads 1870s. Heilman was a member of Congress from 1879-1883. Died in 1890. The life-sized statue of St. John was erected in 1892. Son was Charles F. Heilman, mayor, 1910-1914. ('88 script correction: Laura Fellows Heilman was George P. Heilman's wife. George was another son of William Heilman.)
52. Hutcheson marker: "Mother and children united in life; in death we are not separated." Marker of polished black granite with delicate incising at top corners. Note the willow tree carving on the markers flanking the Hutcheson marker (just behind it). The weeping willow tree is a favorite cemetery motif.
53. On several markers to the right of the walk after the Hutcheson plot are carvings depicting a finger pointing to heaven, a garland and angel and a willow tree. Also note the Golden Rose.
54. -Capt. Henry Dexter – Evansville riverboat captain at time of Civil War. Armed his ship with the cannon at the Pagoda. .
55. Samuel W. Eaton. Small gable-roofed vault with headstone. Text: "Our Darling." (Collapsed – pile of stones now.)
56. Alvah Johnson – attorney and real estate developer. During the Civil War he was a local provost marshal for the military draft. Note his son Charles served in the Spanish-American War, -- Santiago de Cuba – Charles also wrote One Hundred Years of Evansville, Indiana.
57. Boetticher monument with two statues; unique in Oak Hill. Boetticher & Kellogg Hardware, a wholesale concern of the last century and into this century. Business dates to 1855 but Edward Boetticher and Charles Kellogg et. al. bought into it in 1866. The original dog was in the neighborhood where Mr. Boetticher grew up. It was stolen in 1897, but quickly replaced. The dog was fondly remembered by most of the family – the children always climbing on his back. Oscar Boetticher, though obviously had other thoughts and in 1946 had the dog hauled away. Remembering her mother-in-law's lingering ire about this, Betty Boetticher kept any eye out for a replacement. In 1994 she located a dog that was the original's twin – and perhaps the original. In rough condition, David Heubner at USI took almost eight years to restore the canine. Now named Beowulf, the dog again is a highlight of the cemetery.
58. Charles Denby. U.S. minister to China, 1881-94. Wife, Martha Fitch Denby, daughter of U.S. senator from Indiana in the last century.
59. Note "pile of rock" to left of drive just before the Ortmeyer stone. The "rocks" are actually carved with carved twining lilies. The inscription has totally disappeared, unless rubbing would bring it out.
60. Ortmeyer stone: Christ with a cross. John L. Ortmeyer was associated with the Puster Furniture Co. (like pus), later renamed the Indiana Furniture co. Half of the building still exists at the corner of NW 6<sup>th</sup> and Ingle streets. In the two decades bracketing the turn of the century, Evansville was a nationally recognized hardwood and furniture manufacturing center. Ortmeyer's grandson in attorney Edmund F. Ortmeyer.

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62. Martin obelisk, with G.A.R. inscription.
63. John Mundy, double-tree-trunk stone, but no wife’s name on the second trunk south of road).
64. Small stone for Christina & Freddie Kuhs, with lamb.
65. A triangle of prominent Germans: Ossenberg (politics); Lauenstein, with a cherub (owned German-language newspaper until WW I); Funkhouser (2 sons killed in WW I; Funkhouser American Legion Post named for them); Nonweiler Philip Nonweiler, Sr. took over Evansville Furniture Co. in 1870. Was at site of the former Evansville Antique Mall on Pennsylvania St.
66. To the right of drive, just before you get to the Leich stone, which is on the left, are two identical markers with reclining lambs against a tree trunk. Erected for two Weber children.
67. Charles Leich. German immigrant. Founded a wholesale drug firm in the early 1850s, still owned by the same family. On a visit to Germany, became “trapped” there during WW I.
68. John Laval. Physician, pharmacist, land developer and one-time head of People’s bank. Erected the Laval Block in 1884 on West Franklin Street.
69. Speck Rosenkranz; inscription in German.
70. Other Rosencranz family stones include Major Albert C. Rosencranz. Married William Heilman’s daughter and became head of his father-in-law’s plow works (renamed Vulcan Plow). 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. 4 Ind. Cavalry rose to Major. Fought at Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Atlanta, Nashville.
71. Mr./Mrs. Matthew Henning. Horizontal gabled vaults. Henning was a 19<sup>th</sup>-century banker.
72. Breitschu stone. Inscription in German – another statue of bowed grief.
73. Orr family plot. Orr Iron Company, established 1835. Samuel Orr descendant is former Governor Robert D Orr. During Civil War Samuel was president of Evansville Sanitary Commission, oversaw hospitals, got donations of linens, food, and money. The monument was erected in 1884 and is of blue crystal granite. The oak and laurel wreath symbolize strength and victory. The total weight is about 30 tons. Go around back Women’s flying corps.
74. Cyprian Preston. Early Evansville merchant. Statue pointing heaven-ward.
75. Might note the roughed-textured Torian cross. Barbours are also buried in the plot. Torian and Barbour were wholesale cap and hat merchants.
76. William Chandler. Son of John. Note the footstones are present, but the main stone has disappeared. It can happen, no matter how prominent one was.
77. Gilbert obelisk. First Frank Manson Gilbert was editor of Evansville Evening Tribune. Second F. Manson Gilbert was noted local architect and employee of State Department.
78. Ragon stone, angel with trumpet. Wholesale groceries.
79. Elizabeth Tabor. Text: “in affectionate remembrance of Elizabeth Tabor, born in Somersham, Hunt, England.” the vault has a Gothic feeling about it. The cross leaning against the end has inscribed “Sister Martha.”

80. Viele Circle. One of the town's prominent families, beginning with Charles Viele, who came to Evv in the 1830s and dealt in wholesale groceries and liquor. Family home is the very striking house at Riverside and Cherry, across from the Museum. It was a social center in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Family died out after the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation.

81. Frederick Washington Cook – Latin inscription, “Love never dies.” Established a brewery, 1853. Closed 1954. Produced Cook's Goldblume Beer. The monument was made by the Scholz Monument Works in about 1915 and was designed and an “Exedra in Memorial Design – Grecian.” (an exedra = a niche or recess, usually with a bench or seats, and generally semicircular in plan. Sometimes it was an extension of a colonnade.) Cook's partner in the Brewery, ---- Rice, Cook's early partner, is buried at the right rear on the monument.

82. (Just to the south, behind the Cook monument) Charles Klingelhofer's flat stone loaded with garlands, wreath and angels. It was executed in the Uhlhorn monument work in 1876. Note the delicateness of the work.

83. Another Reitz family – brother of F.J. ?? Franz Joseph Reitz d. 1 Nov. 1859

84 Minnie Zoa Burtis. Statue of a little girl feeding a lamb.

85. Edgar Seitz. Rose on scroll – behind Burtis.

86. Caden monument. Franz Caden's limestone quarry on the Green River in Kentucky furnished stone for many important buildings here and across the country. Willard Library is one example. Another is the former William Heilman mansion (611 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, now the St. Vincents's Day Nursery), which is faced with the Green River stone. His son built an English Revival house on Willow Road in 1929 that was veneered with Bedford Limestone; the Caden's Kentucky quarries ceased operation just after the turn of this century when the stone “played out.”

87. John Dannettell - Mayor of Evansville 1886-89. His granddaughter is Mary Dannettell.

88. Becker monument (to right of drive, across from Juniper Circle). Quarry-faced cross with marble statue of woman holding wreath and whose skirt drapes down the steps.

89. Franz Engelsman, sculptor of the Old Courthouse, is buried on the east side of Juniper Circle, opposite the Puster monument and part of Benninghof plot. Engelsman married into this family.

90. Juniper Circle, a Victorian who's who. Within the circle, clockwise: Willard Carpenter (railroad and canal promoter, land speculator, merchant and founder of the Willard Library); Samuel & Martha Orr Bayard (president, Old National Bank); Louis Puster (furniture manufacturer); Watkins F Nisbet (wholesale dry goods, built the “mansion” at 310 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Street); Gilbert (dry goods); John Ingle (lawyer, owned the Ingleside Mine on Rietz Hill, and projector of the Evansville & Terre Haute R.R.); North Storms (grain dealer; nephew was Lee Bourland Storms, who was associated with the Red Spot company); Grammer (steamboats and railroads); Karges (furniture; still a Karges family business) – although a new stone, the sentiment is pure Victorian: “That which is so universal as death must be a blessing.”

91. Reed Lodge, Masonic burial area.

92. Scholz (new stone). The F.J. Scholz marble works supplied tomb stones and monuments to prominent families in Evansville and as far away as Texas.

93. Kornberger. Terrific bas-relief portrait; only example in Oak Hill. Rudolph Kornberger was a German native; came to Evv in 1884; ran a saloon on Fulton Avenue; died in 1905 at age 69.

94. Young stone. Names written on an open book.

95. Thomas Erwin, d. 1900. Stone includes bronze Woodmen of the World plaque. Membership in fraternal organizations used to be a form of burial insurance.
96. G.A.R. section; Union troops with statue on high pedestal. Note “LOYALITY” in bold letters.
97. Down the hill note two potter’s fields. The first is one lane down the hill. The second is off to the north (right) at the bottom of the hill. These are scattered small monuments here. African Americans first probably buried in old potter’s field. Second African American section is at the bottom of the hill – straight ahead. First burials here circa 1913. Note large stone in front is Ernest Tidrington, first African-American attorney in Evansville—the “Boss of Baptisttown.” He was murdered. The military stones here and in old potter’s field are almost all for veterans of the U.S. Colored Troops.
98. Children’s plot. (South of the two large trees, in back and to side of yellow wire trash container.) Note the stone that has the child’s picture on it. Note the lambs, etc.
99. Union soldiers’ burial ground. Many died of wounds at Evansville’s Marine Hospital, then situated on the river bank at the head of Wabash Ave. (The W. Illinois Street Marine Hospital was built in 1892.) Note cannon/cannon balls – which keep disappearing.
100. Isaac Harrison monument and family plot. Obelisk with draped urn. Harrison was a Gypsy King. Note the Masonic emblem. (See attached newspaper clipping.)
101. Elliott stone – Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.
102. Frank Zipp – There was a Zipp post office on north Stringtown Road in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
103. Otto Hauschild – Young man of 21 contracted scarlet fever and died while assisting his mother in caring for victims of this disease. He was that mother’s only child – Mother and son listed on marker/
104. Wilhelm Henze, age 2; statue of small boy wearing boots. Some Evv residents who played in the cemetery when young refer to the statue as “Little Willy.” Note also the stone to the left, and “papa” and “mama” stones next to the road.
105. Confederate marker, erected in 1904, commemorating 24 Confederate men, most of whom died at the Marine Hospital and probably buried in the old potter’s field.
106. Former “receiving vault.” Used to store bodies which were awaiting burial. Recently restored. Designed by Clifford Shopbell.
107. James Urie, pioneer plow maker. His concern was the predecessor of the Blount/Burch plow works.
108. Karl Kae Knecht/Moore obelisk. Knecht a cartoonist for the Courier; drew almost every prominent Evansvillian between about 1915 and the 1960’s. (Knecht married Elwood Moore’s daughter Jennie.)

End of Tour at the Administration Building. Encourage a stroll around the lake on the way back to the cars.

Written by Donald E Baker; 05/1988

(revised/expanded; 05/14/89; JCM; Corrected/reprinted 04/05/91; JCM) (Corrected/reprinted D. Au 2013)

Special note (for the 1989 tour; possibly the 1991 tour): the tallest pine, to the southwest of the Orr and Preston plots, have a group of horned owls. If they are around on Sunday, they will be sitting on the highest branches.

On the way west from Juniper Circle, might point out the lilies that adorn the Begley markers. Might also point out the difference between the artistic and ornamental 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century markers and the Spartan, unimaginative ones of today.

Attached background material:

#81: Isaac Harrison. 24 December 1900 Evv Courier, 1/3 top. GYPSIES ARRIVE TO BURY HARRISON.

General background:

6 May 1859 Daily Journal, 1/5 top. "Thoughts on Visiting Oak Hill Cemetery." (a poem)

19 May 1907 Evv Courier, 11/top. BEAUTIFUL CITY OF THE DEAD HAS A POPULATION OF  
20,000.

Tours/here lies Evansville

4/6/91