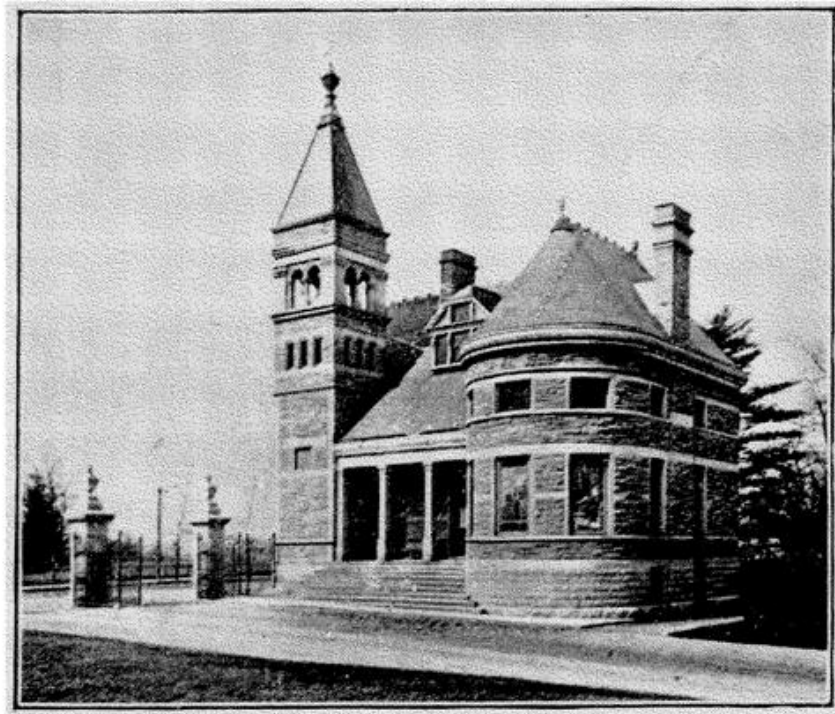


**Lexington**

**Cemetery**

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THE CHAPEL.

LEXINGTON  
CEMETERY

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ORGANIZED 1849.

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MEETING OF THE LOT OWNERS HELD  
MARCH 11TH, 1895.

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LEXINGTON, KY.:  
TRANSYLVANIA PRINTING CO.  
1895.

# Lexington Cemetery.



## Chairman and Trustees.

H. M. SKILLMAN, M. D., Chairman.

## Trustees.

R. T. ANDERSON,

E. P. SHELBY,

J. S. WOOLFOLK,

JOSEPH CLARK,

JOHN ALLEN,

M. P. LANCASTER.

## Brief History of the Cemetery.

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Lexington Cemetery was founded in 1849 after the city had been visited by cholera, and the necessity for a commodious repository of the dead was demonstrated by that plague. The following gentlemen subscribed in the aggregate \$12,000, \$7000 of which was invested in forty acres of land, the purchase being made of Thos. E. Boswell :

M. T. Scott,	M. C. Johnson,
Benj Gratz,	R. Higgins,
S. Swift,	R. Wickliffe,
John Tilford,	D. A. Sayre,
A. T. Skillman,	E. K. Sayre,
G. W. Sutton,	H. T. Duncan,
Joel Higgins,	J. Hemingway,
J. B. Tilford,	Johr Lutz.
D. M. Craig,	A. F. Hawkins,
Benj. Warfield,	R. J. Breckinridge,
E. Warfield,	E. McAlister,
T. E. Boswell,	J. M. Bush,
	John Brand.

## Lexington Cemetery.

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### Preliminary Meetings.

LEXINGTON, January 23, 1849.

At an accidental meeting of those anxious to establish a cemetery, were present M. T. Scott, Benj. Gratz, Madison C. Johnson and Richard Higgins; whereupon it was resolved that M. C. Johnson draw up a subscription paper, and that each one named use every exertion to procure subscribers. The following is a copy of said paper.

The subscribers each agree to pay to the Lexington Cemetery Company the sums annexed to our names, for the purpose of purchasing the site of the cemetery and of enclosing and laying out the same, the land to be vested in said corporation, and the sums by us paid to be reimbursed to us, with interest, from the sales of lots as provided in the charter. No subscription less than five hundred dollars. Nor is this subscription to be binding until the sum of ten thousand dollars is subscribed. The amounts to be paid as the same shall become necessary for the payment of the land, and for enclosing and laying it out, at the call of the corporation, and shall not exceed fifty per cent. in any one year.

In pursuance of the above the subscribers met at the office of M. C. Johnson on January 27th, 1849. A committee was appointed to select a location for the cemetery and the present site, containing forty acres, was purchased



from Thos. E. Boswell, for which the sum of seven thousand dollars was paid. On March 15th, 1849, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Abraham T. Skillman was unanimously elected President, Richard Higgins was elected Secretary, and M. T. Scott was elected Treasurer.

On July 11, 1849, the price of lots was fixed at 10 cents per square foot, at which price a great many lots were sold, but in a few days the price was advanced to 15 cents per square foot. On the 1st of April Mr. C. S. Bell was chosen Superintendent, who has been with the Company ever since, except one year.

#### **Dedication.**

On the 25th of June, 1850, the cemetery was dedicated with imposing ceremonies. The business houses of the city were closed and an immense procession, composed of the Masonic Order, Odd Fellows, Sons of Temperance, Societies of Transylvania University and citizens in carriages and on foot proceeded to the cemetery. An opening prayer by Rev. Dr. Miller, of the Methodist Church, was followed by an ode composed by Prof. R. S. Ruter, of Transylvania University and concluded with this stanza :

O! thou God, our Friend and Father,  
May the names these gravestones bear,  
When we all shall rise together.  
In thy Book of Life appear.

The dedication sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. R. J. Breckinridge, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, and the closing prayer was delivered by Rev. E. F. Berkeley, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church.

On the 29th of November, 1858, E. D. Sayre was elected Secretary and Treasurer to succeed J. C. Butler, who moved to St. Louis, and he has served continuously ever since without compensation.

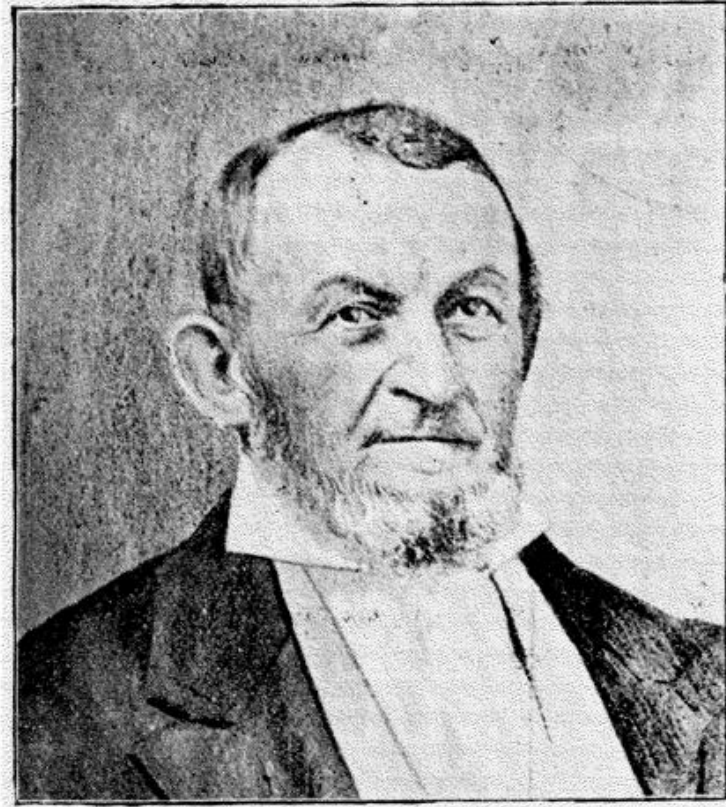
On Oct. 15, 1858, five acres and three-quarters of ground were purchased from Payne's heirs, and March 11, 1863, thirteen and one-quarter acres were purchased from D. T. Adams. In May, 1883, the Somerville property of four and one-eighth acres was purchased for quarry purposes, and the last purchase was the Lee place of which the cemetery retained fifty-two acres, making the whole real estate owned by the cemetery about 110 acres at this time (April, 1895). In March, 1867, Major Madison C. Johnson was elected President, and he served continuously till his death in December, 1886.

#### **The Clay Monument.**

In 1857 the cemetery company deeded for and in consideration of one dollar, to the Clay Monument Association, the beautiful lot on which the monument is built. It was erected at a cost of \$54,263, and on the 4th of July the same year, it was dedicated with imposing ceremonies, a great many distinguished men from all over the country being present.

#### **The Chapel.**

In 1890 it was thought advisable to build a chapel, waiting rooms, and office at the entrance to the cemetery and the beautiful structure that now adorns the grounds was erected at a cost of about \$15,000, and it is found exceedingly useful as well as ornamental.



A. T. SKILLMAN.

## **Lots Donated by the Cemetery Company.**

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A lot was donated for the burial of Union soldiers who died in the hospitals of the city.

The United States Government afterwards purchased an addition to said lot to disinter the remains of soldiers buried in the adjoining counties and have them buried in this lot. The addition to lot was purchased on the first day of July, 1867.

### **Confederate Lot.**

This lot was donated for the burial of Confederate dead in 1862, and the Confederate Veteran Association, on February 2d, 1892, purchased an addition to it, so as to make it large enough to bury any one who had been in the Confederate army who desired to be buried in said lot. Since then they have erected a monument on the portion purchased with all the names of those buried in the lot, on the monument.

### **White Protestant Churches.**

Lots were donated to the white Protestant churches in the city to bury their poor members and their families. Beautiful lots have been laid off in the western portion of the cemetery for that purpose.

### **Spinoza Society.**

The Spinoza Society, a corporation chartered by the General Assembly of the State of Kentucky.

The cemetery company sold to said society on the second day of December 1894, section E. 1, to be used exclusively as the burial ground of persons of the Hebrew faith, with the same privileges that are guaranteed to other lot owners by the charter of the cemetery.

## Meeting of Lot Owners.

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In answer to the following call a large and representative meeting of the lot owners in the cemetery met in the Circuit Court room of the court-house on Monday, March 11th, 1895.

WHEREAS, We, the lot owners and the only stockholders of the Lexington Cemetery, have seen with indignation, the recent base effort to defame and bring into disrepute the Chairman and Trustees of the cemetery, who are substantial and honorable gentlemen, and who have served us for many years without compensation and with a fidelity and efficiency seldom witnessed; therefore we call a meeting of lot owners of said cemetery, to be held in the court-house in Lexington, on Monday, March 11, county court day, at 2 o'clock P. M., to give expression to our confidence in said Chairman and Trustees, and to express our indignation at the aspersions that have been cast on their characters.

On motion of Dr. L. B. Todd, the venerable Judge R. A. Buckner was chosen to preside and Mr. W. L. Threlkeld was elected secretary.

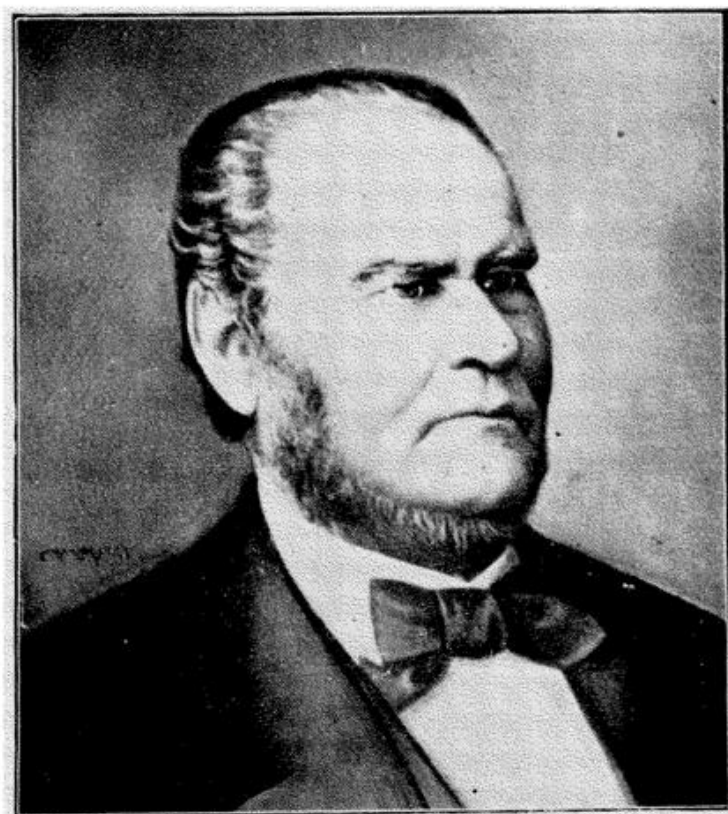
Judge Buckner, after the reading of the call, with great earnestness and emotion, spoke as follows:

### **Judge R. A. Buckner's Remarks.**

Gentlemen, the object or purpose of this meeting is disclosed by the petition for the calling of the meeting, which has just been read by the secretary. You will perceive that the name of no officer of the corporation is attached to it. It was called at the desire of the lot own-

ers of the Lexington Cemetery to refute the slanderous and uncalled for charges made and published in newspapers of this and another State. Therefore whatever may be your action, it cannot be imputed to the procurement or solicitation of any officer of the body; it was the voluntary act of lot owners conscious of the purity and integrity of their trustees, to remove a stain attempted to be put upon their character by two anonymous letters sent from this place to two widely circulating papers; one in the city of Louisville and the other in Cincinnati. I do not believe that these charges were maliciously made, but were caused by a desire to furnish those two papers with sensational news; and the publication of such accusations, without due investigation as to the truth of the same, is scarcely less excusable than if maliciously done.

It will be remembered by all of you then living that in 1848 the cemeteries of Lexington, for want of curators and sufficient means to keep them in repair, had fallen into ruin, being but waste places for straying cattle, and a resort for dissipation, covered by the shadows of night. A number of wealthy and philanthropic gentlemen determined to remove this stain, if possible, from the escutcheon of Lexington, formed a society consisting of twenty-five gentlemen, each of whom subscribed and paid five hundred dollars to found and build up a cemetery and park, having within itself the means through an ever living body of curators to preserve and perpetuate it. These gentlemen obtained an act chartering them as a body corporate, under name and style of Lexington Cemetery Company, and empowering them to create a Chairman and Board of Trustees and such other officers as might be necessary; and to buy land not exceeding two hundred acres, to be used as a cemetery, and to lay out the same in lots and to sell them; the proceeds of which sales, after the payment of the pur-



MADISON C. JOHNSON.

chase price of the land, and the refunding to the subscribers of the money advanced, was ever to be applied to the ornamentation and the improvement of the lands.

Having obtained such a charter they soon organized by electing a President and Board of Directors and Treasurer, and completed the purchase of forty acres of beautiful undulating land, adjoining the west of the city of Lexington, covered by a rich and varied native forest. They then employed as superintendent that well known and splendid landscape gardener, Mr. Bell, who laid out the grounds in broad, serpentine carriage drives and walks, and into lots of unequal size; the company fixing the price of the lots so low as to put them within easy reach of the most limited means. There was a large immediate demand for the lots and by their sale the company soon found itself in possession of ample funds to pay for improving and beautifying their already lovely grounds. The boundaries of the cemetery were from time to time enlarged, the improvements and the many adornments keeping pace with these advances. This cemetery now contains within its boundaries one hundred and six acres; and the funds of the company, over and above what has been expended for the necessary improvements and keeping in repair the grounds, were by the Treasurer, Mr. E. D. Sayre, put at interest, and by his skill and faithful management exceed eighty thousand dollars, which is securely invested, and the interest of which is applied to the payment of the salaries of the superintendent and the workmen employed to do the manual labor, while the residue is reserved as a fund for keeping up the repairs of the grounds and extending its boundaries in the future, as the necessities of our growing population will certainly demand.

A. T. Skillman was elected the first Chairman, and M.



T. Scott, Cashier of the Northern Bank, its first Treasurer. Upon the death of Mr. Sayre, the present banker, Mr. E. D. Sayre, was elected Treasurer, and has continued in that position up to this time. Upon the death of Mr. Skillman, Richard Higgins was elected his successor, and at his death Madison C. Johnson, was chosen to succeed him. D. D. Bell was President for a short time and then Dr. H. M. Skillman, who is now the President.

The cemetery is now a thing of beauty, and under the artistic and beautiful work of its able superintendent, Mr. Bell, it blooms and blossoms as beautiful as the garden of Hesperides. There has been no call for outside aid upon the part of the management. The original founders and their successors have been engaged in this work for more than forty-five years without demanding and without receiving one cent for their time and their labor. These gentlemen, as well as the superintendent, deserve the profoundest gratitude from the citizens of Lexington.

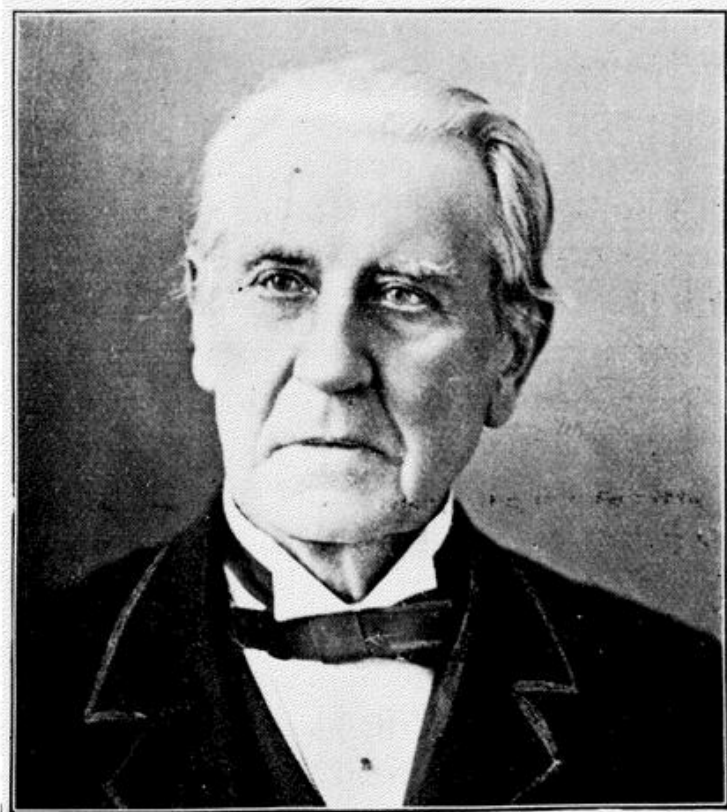
Of these original founders all are dead but one, and they lie sleeping quietly in the house of their own building, guarded, as are the graves of their associate dead, by watchful sentinels against the trespasses of man and beast. They are not only entitled to our gratitude, but they deserve a monument; yet they need no monument of marble or brass, for, if they were here, they could truthfully say with the old Roman poet, "we have erected a monument to ourselves more enduring than brass which time cannot destroy."

The first object which meets one upon entry to the cemetery grounds is a handsome temple built of Kentucky stone, part of which is used as an office for the superintendent and the balance as a chapel for the performance of the ceremonies usual before the burial of

a body If immediate interment of the dead is not desired, one descends by a broad serpentine carriage drive to the bottom of a sloping vale, "a dimple in the cheek of nature," where one finds a spacious, well lighted and secure vault, in which the body is kept until the immediate family and particular friends, freed from the presence of unsympathizing persons, deposit it in its grave, sanctifying the spot by tears of love, there to remain secure from spoliation until the resurrection.

This cemetery is suggestive of thoughts worthy of preservation. One cannot ramble through its grounds, seeing here the grave of an infant, there that of a boy then the grave of a young girl, who has died in the May day of life, and again that of the mature man, who, in his fullness and vigor, had been snatched away while laboring for wife and children; then the grave of the octogenarian, who having long fought the battle of life, falls at last a victim at the feet of his mortal enemy—the King of Terrors—without feeling that "in the midst of life we are in death," and that all, from the youngest to the oldest, stand on the crumbling brink of the dark stream whose nether shore has no light to dispel its gloom but the star of Bethlehem, which alone sheds any light on the ultimate destiny of the generations after generations which have floated down the stream of life into the dark gulf where mortality is swallowed in death. But we have learned that life has conquered death, and although we die, we shall live again. It is a pleasant thought to those whose friends and dear ones lie buried in that beautiful City of the Dead, to know that when their spiritualized bodies arise from the tomb, leaving behind them the ceremonies of the grave, they shall arise to renewed and immortal life amid scenes of such earthly beauty—foreground of the Elysian fields.

The lessons taught by this cemetery are instructive.



C. S. BELL, SR.

Here you may see a group of persons assembled at the foot of the tomb of a distinguished statesman or hero, thinking less of the virtues of the hero than of the beauty of the monument; a little further on you may see a mother bending over the grave of her infant in silent prayer and deep meditation, remembering with gladness, even in her sorrow, a smile, the impression of an angel's kiss upon those frozen lips. We do not read in Holy Writ of any promise to the distinguished statesman or hero as such, and we know that the marble column will crumble and mingle its dust with that of the hero or statesman who lies buried at its base. Turning to the grave of the infant we remember "of such is the Kingdom of Heaven," and read in the smile upon its frozen lips the seal of its new born birthright to a home in Heaven. Viewing these in contrast we can but reflect of how little value are even the successes of earthly ambition and how false is the light on glory's plume.

As a park the cemetery is beautiful and of great value. On a warm summer evening you may find its carriage drives and winding pathways crowded with visitors; many of whom come to hold sweet communion with their dead; others to bask in the declining rays of the sun, softened as they creep through the green foliage over head, and to enjoy the soft western breezes as they come to them, bearing the rich odors of shrub, grass and flower. No ribald jest or coarse conduct is heard or seen to offend the ears or eyes of the worshipers at the tomb. Others are rambling through the grounds, renewing their memory of the dead by reading the names and epitaphs inscribed upon their tombs—sweet remembrance to those who knew them in life and a revelation to the young.

It is thus a record (though a partial one) of the past and a diary of the present, as scarcely a day passes that

the arrival of some new resident of the City of the Dead is not recorded.

By the Constitution of 1892, as we are aware, all corporations are required to make annual reports of their condition to their stockholders. The body corporate of the Lexington Cemetery Company is not a monied corporation. It does not as a corporation declare dividends; nor are the trustees, nor those interested in its management, nor officers of any kind, nor anyone entitled to a dollar of profits accruing from the sale of lots, nor to any profits accruing in any other manner. Therefore, the failure by the trustees to make the annual reports of the condition of the corporation cannot by any means be called a laxity of duty, nor a failure to do what, by law, is required of the monied corporations. Their failure to do so was perhaps a mere oversight; or perhaps from a misconception of their duty. It surely did not result from any desire to conceal the condition of the institution under their management, for the report now made instead of disclosing anything, which it might be desired to conceal, exhibits a most flourishing condition of the cemetery and park, and shows a prosperity that reflects the greatest credit upon its able management.

The property and its funds are held as a sacred trust for the dead, and the profits, as well as all donations, are required by the charter to be ever applied to the ornamentation of the grounds. The reserve fund is necessary for the preservation of the cemetery. It is, indeed, its life blood and is as necessary for its perpetuation as the blood of our body is for the preservation of its health. If it be weakened or so impaired as to destroy its vitalizing power the cemetery will begin to decay and soon perish; but if it is exempted from the exactions of an ever increasing taxation it will live as long as Lexington stands, a monument to the philanthropy and wisdom of its found-

ers, the pride of Lexington and an assurance to coming generations of the civilization and refinement of the people who founded and had so long preserved it in its primal beauty from the wreck of time.

When Judge Buckner had concluded his remarks, Judge J. D. Hunt, attorney for the company, made the following report of the assets of the corporation :

**Report of the Trustees of the Lexington Cemetery Company.**

The Board of Trustees of the Lexington Cemetery Company makes this report to the lot owners of the assets and liabilities of said company.

The real estate of said company consists of about 110 acres of land, including the lots sold to lot owners.

Its personal assets are as follows :

Cash on hand.....			\$ 4,796 32
Mortgage Notes,	} face value. {	.....	36,284 80
U. S and other Bonds,		.....	33,500 00
Bank Stocks,.....		.....	8,100 00
Total personal assets, .....			\$82,681 12

There are no liabilities except the current expenses for superintendence, labor, etc., which are paid monthly. None of the property of the company has ever been listed for taxation, for the reason that the board did not, and do not, believe it to be subject to taxation. It is also believed that the assets above mentioned are perfectly good, and, if necessary, could be reduced to cash within a few days for their full value.

The charter of the cemetery company imposes on the trustees the duty to husband the resources of the company, and to provide a fund devoted to the ornamentation and care of the cemetery grounds and burial lots.

The necessity of this is plain enough, unless we are willing that our cemetery shall fall into the same state



E. D. SAYRE.

of desolation that has come to most, if not all, of the old burying grounds about Lexington. Even now nearly all the lots in the old parts of the ground are sold, but the necessity and expense of caring for them is vastly increased. This care is equally bestowed on the graves of all, without any distinction whatever. For the five years last past the sale of lots and the grave fees for the whole cemetery would not have paid the necessary expenses, unless supplemented by the income derived from investments. The time must inevitably come when all the ordinary sources of income to the company must be cut off, and unless a fund is now accumulated, the burial place of our dead must fall into neglect. We also take occasion to say here that the prices charged by this company for burial lots is considerably less than is generally charged by similar institutions.

A few years since it became apparent that an enlargement of the cemetery was imperatively necessary. Not being able to purchase the exact quantity of land required the trustees bought from Mr. Lee his farm adjoining, containing about one hundred and six (106) acres for the price of \$40,000. One-half of this purchase is retained as a necessary addition to the cemetery grounds. The other half, not being now needed and not suitable, was sold by the trustees for the same price they had paid for the entire tract. They have also within the last few years sold about four other acres of land not needed by the company at the price of \$6,600. They have likewise in the last three years made permanent improvements, including a beautiful chapel and office and other buildings at an expense of more than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000).

In these and other transactions the interests of the cemetery company have been guarded by the officers of the company to the best of their judgment, without com-



mission or expenses to any agent. None of the officers have ever received any compensation for any service rendered, nor has any one of them borrowed or had the use of any of the funds of the company. They have had the grounds well cared for, and as they deemed it to be their duty, after reserving sufficient cash on hand to meet current expenses, they have kept the remaining money of the company well and safely invested. By order of the Board.

Respectfully submitted.

Governor M. C. Alford offered the following resolutions which were read by the secretary :

WHEREAS, We, the lot owners and only stockholders of the Lexington Cemetery Company in called meeting assembled, have seen with indignation attacks made upon the management of the cemetery through the press, of a false and slanderous nature ; and

WHEREAS, The said management has done everything possible to preserve, extend and beautify the grounds of the cemetery, and have made it one of the most attractive cemeteries in America, affording perfect security to the ashes of our loved ones deposited in its keeping and lovely surroundings for those who visit this sacred spot ; and

WHEREAS, Not a cent has ever been paid to the present directors or their predecessors for the care and management, so intelligently and efficiently employed in behalf of the interest of the company ; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the chairman, management and treasurer of the said cemetery company deserve, and are hereby tendered the thanks of the lot owners for their perfect faithfulness and efficiency in the management of the pecuniary and other interests of this company.

*Resolved,* That we have every confidence in the integrity, efficiency and perfect faithfulness of the present management, and recommend them for re-election to their present position whenever it shall be necessary to select a new Board.

*Resolved,* That we tender our thanks to Mr. Charles S. Bell, who has been superintendent of the cemetery from its inception and for more than forty-five years to the present time, and whose fidelity, taste and skill as a landscape gardener, have transformed a plain woodland pasture into one of the most beautiful spots on earth, where the ashes of our dead repose in security amid the loveliest surroundings.

*Resolved,* That we have heard read the official statement of the financial condition of the company with great satisfaction and pleasure.

*Resolved,* That this preamble and resolutions be published in the newspapers, and the Secretary of the Board of Managers be requested to spread them upon the official books of the cemetery company.

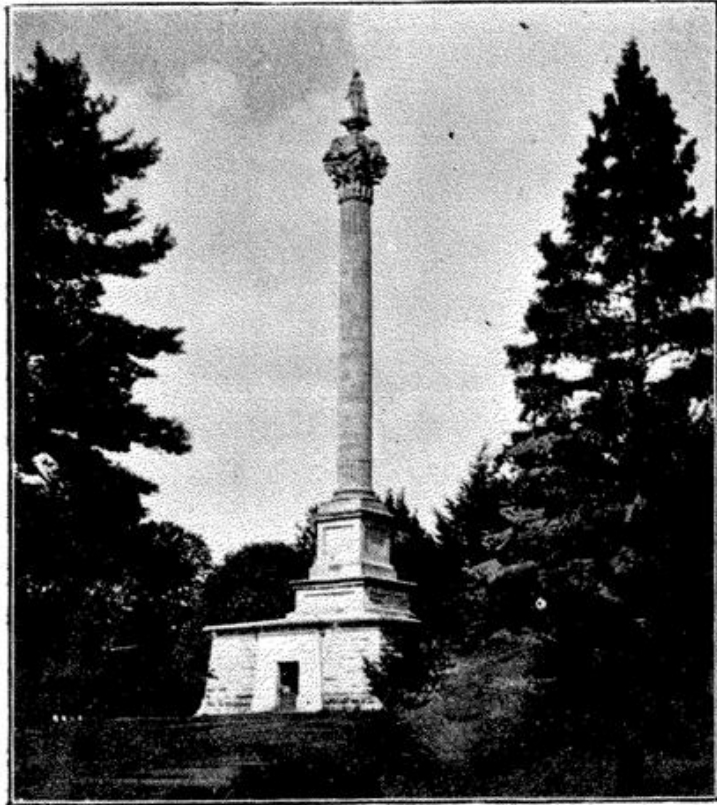
*Resolved,* That the Board of Managers cause to be printed, in neat pamphlet form, the proceedings of this meeting sufficient to supply each lot owner with a copy.

**Lieut.-Gov. M. C. Alford's Speech.**

*Mr. Chairman :*

I rise, sir, for the purpose of moving the adoption of the resolutions.

This voluntary meeting of those who are the lot owners in Lexington's beautiful City of the Dead, each one of whom has, perhaps, already committed all that remained of some loved one to the silent grave within its portals, is a spontaneous tribute to the wisdom and fidelity of those



THE CLAY MONUMENT.

who have had the management of its financial affairs, and the care and control of its physical condition. The report of the treasurer, just read, shows the gratifying state of the one, while a visit within its gates eloquently attests the satisfactory condition of the other.

The adverse public criticism of a quasi-public service gratuitously rendered, if unfounded in fact, cannot be too strongly condemned, and the zeal of disapprobation cannot be more forcefully put upon it than by the concerted action of the quasi-constituency, expressive of renewed confidence and trust.

Every citizen is alike amenable to the law, and he who is slowest to violate is last to claim immunity from it. No member of the Board of Trustees of the Lexington Cemetery Company claims to stand higher than the law; but, Mr. Chairman, in every community there are some men whose character and standing become a part of the public honor, whose unimpeachable integrity becomes a matter of public pride. Such men, perhaps, may accidentally fall into technical error, but they always stand acquit at the bar of public opinion, the highest tribunal that sits in judgment. As the facts connected with the management of the Lexington Cemetery really exist, the roster of its Board of Managers is a roll of honor. Their honest, earnest and unselfish efforts have brought about splendid results, and we, Mr. Chairman, each of whom owns and cherishes a small spot of ground within that sacred enclosure, have met together to unite in an expression of the sincerest appreciation of the unbought services rendered by those who have been in control, and to avow our unaltered confidence in that management.

I desire to move the adoption of the resolutions, Mr. Chairman.

On seconding the adoption of the resolutions Mr. H. H. Gratz spoke as follows:

*Mr. Chairman:*

In seconding the adoption of these resolutions I hope I may be excused if I make a few remarks pertinent to the subject. I am old enough sir, to remember the time when the cemetery company was organized and the reason that impelled those wise and good men to form the association of which we are the heirs and beneficiaries. Every family in the county had its grave yard, and over this town were scattered burying grounds of small extent, upon which little or no care was bestowed. The old city burying ground on the hill and the Baptist burying ground on Short street, where a stately church now stands, had been abandoned as places of interment, and both were overgrown with unsightly weeds, and were the resort of all abominations. Sanitary science had recently pronounced its anathema upon burying grounds in cities as inimical to the health of the living, and as Lexington had recently passed through a season of plague from cholera a score or more of prudent and public spirited citizens determined to establish a cemetery far enough removed from the city so as not to endanger the lives of the living, and where the remains of their loved ones could repose in peace and be undisturbed for all time to come. I will repeat the names of those men, to whom we are indebted for an inheritance more precious than fine gold and more valuable than lands and hereditaments.

M. T. Scott,  
Benj. Gratz,  
S. Swift,  
John Tilford,  
A. T. Skillman,  
G. W. Sutton,  
Joel Higgins,  
J. B. Tilford,

M. C. Johnson,  
R. Higgins,  
R. Wickliffe,  
D. A. Sayre,  
E. K. Sayre,  
H. T. Duncan,  
J. Hemingway,  
John Lutz,

D. M. Craig,	A. F. Hawkins,
Benj. Warfield,	R. J. Breckinridge,
E. Warfield,	E. McAlister,
T. E. Boswell,	J. M. Bush,
John Brand.	

You, Mr. Chairman, and many others present, doubtless recognize in these names the very flower of the solid citizenship of Lexington and vicinity, and if they could have lived, as we have lived, to see the work of their hands, they would have been abundantly satisfied, as we are and should be.

They not only established a cemetery, but they inaugurated a policy for its care and preservation, which their successors have faithfully followed, that has insured to us one of the most beautiful and beautifully kept repositories of the dead that any community in this broad land can boast. Not the humblest grave has been neglected, but every mound that marks the resting place of some one's loved one, has received the assiduous attention of the vigilant guardian who, for two score years and more, has kept ward and watch over this sacred spot. Not only this, but for all this care and watchfulness not one dollar has it cost the lot owners. Survivors have gone to distant cities and far off countries and remained for years, leaving not a relative behind except those that reposed in this city of the dead, and when they have come again, they have found the mounds which mark the spot where repose the remains of their loved ones as tenderly cared for as if loving hands had visited them but yesterday.

I have seen most of the notable cemeteries in this country. I have gone into Mt. Auburn at Boston, where repose the remains of the descendants of those stern old Puritans who braved the storms of the Atlantic and the tomahawks of savage Indians for freedom to worship



THE CONFEDERATE LOT.

their God—and all was lovely. I have stood in beautiful Greenwood, where the “stately ships go by,” and heard the roar of the ocean surf at Rockaway as it beat perpetual requiem for the dead by whom I was surrounded. Here are erected mausoleums over dead millionaires, compared with which the tombs of princes are but unsightly handiwork—and all was lovely. I have been to Laurel Hill, where repose the remains of the gentle sons of the City of Brotherly Love, and where stands Old Mortality to greet the visitor as he enters those hallowed precincts—and all was beautiful. Not many years ago I stood at the Golden Gate, where repose the remains of the adventurous pioneers of the gold fields of California. Here is heard the ceaseless roar of sea lions as they scramble upon the rocks for repose from the perpetual turbulence of the ocean, which is their element. Here is heard the scream of the eagle as she rises from the waves and bears her prey in her clutched talons, to her young in their eyrie on the mountain peak. Neither the lion’s roar nor the eagle’s scream disturbs the sleep of those who lie around—and all was beautiful. In all these abodes of death, art and wealth and sorrow had exhausted themselves to cannonize the dead and to give expression to tenderness and regret. But for graceful curve of hill and dale that are the very poetry of landscape; for stately forest trees under whose spreading branches the lurking savage may have waited for his victim, or possibly Daniel Boone or Harrod, may at noonday, have reposed for refreshment, after a weary chase of the stag or the buffalo; for modest monuments that give expression rather to broken hearts and sorrow than to ostentation and vanity; for that marvelous turf which neither requires fertilization nor irrigation to insure perennial green but above all and beyond all for that unceasing care and vigilance that knows neither



sleep nor slumber, and for whose security and perpetuity no appropriation or subscription ever has been or ever will be demanded or accepted, Lexington Cemetery has no peer. It is a perfect work in itself and beyond all praise, for the praise for its establishment is due to those who have gone before, and praises would but fall upon ears that are mouldering in the grave. To the living men, their successors, we accord all honor and every meed of thankfulness and praise, and these resolutions give that expression.

But it is not only the lot owners and the buried dead that are the beneficiaries of this magnificent heritage. To the city and to the citizens of Lexington it has been what Boston Common is to Boston City and what Central Park is to New York—a resort where the old and the young, the sick and the feeble, young men and maidens find air and exercise and grateful shade. Here are to be found recreation and enjoyment, chastened by the solemnities of the surroundings; and visitors can and often do, learn lessons more impressive and as valuable as preacher or teacher ever inculcated. For these privileges and enjoyments the city of Lexington and its people do not pay and have not paid one cent, but are indebted to the good men whose names I have mentioned, and alas! all of whom have fallen by the wayside and repose in the hallowed spot they procured for us—save one, and he is far away in a distant State, and in the nature of things, must soon join his honored associates. If the gates of this lovely park were closed, and the public excluded from the enjoyments and recreations which it has furnished for well nigh on to half a century, half a million of dollars could not replace it to the citizens of Lexington. But such a calamity as this, thank God, cannot befall us, or can only come when we are unfaithful to our honored ancestors to whose care and providence we

are indebted for this priceless legacy, unfaithful to the honorable gentlemen, their successors, who for many years have given watchful guardianship without money and without price to preserve, to extend, to beautify, and to perpetuate, the lovely place in which they and we must soon find sepulchre.