

## Washington County Cemetery Preservation Group

# NEWSLETTER

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Third Quarter, 2017



Mike Freels

Wow! It's August! Where has this year gone? I hope everyone has had a wonderful year thus far. The Washington County Cemetery

Preservation Group has kept itself busy in the preservation and education of cemeteries, especially those which are abandoned and need TLC. At the present, we are working on a plan for the Mayfield Cemetery which is located east of Fayetteville. And we are doing some field work with the James Phillips Family Cemetery in Tontitown. We also are well established in our new office at the Elm Springs Heritage Center, located at 106 Water Ave Building B in historic Elm Springs, Arkansas. Everyone is welcome to come down and check out the Heritage Center which is chocked full of history. The hours of operation of Thursday - Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm. I am at the center at least one Saturday each month and many times I can be found there during the scheduled weekly hours.

The next scheduled public meeting will be August 26, 2017 at 1 pm at the

Volunteer Fire Department in Cincinnati, Arkansas.

Our meeting will be held in conjunction with the Cincinnati Heritage Researchers and our group will discuss the history and the purpose of WCCPG as well as the importance of using D/2 to clean headstones. Afterward, we plan to go to the local cemetery and do a brief demonstration of how to use D/2.

Everyone is invited to attend and help make this a great meeting for everyone. Invite a friend as well.

If you are interested in attending the Fall Cemetery Preservation Workshop and learn how to clean tombstones and do simple repairs, the next scheduled workshop will be September 23, 2017 at the Quitman City Cemetery in Quitman, AR with Rusty Brenner. For more information and/or to register, contact Holly Hope at (501) 324-9148 prior to September 23rd or (501) 681-2120 on the day of the workshop.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and as always we, at WCCPG, always encourage you to do everything you can to help preserve our cemeteries while using the proper techniques and following the proper ethics. *Thanks!* –  
*Mike Freels, President*

## Gravestone Discovery Has Happy Ending



Newton Jasper Tillman

The gravestone of Newton Jasper Tillman is finally home. This after his tombstone was found during a renovation project by a local contractor. The stone was found after removing what seemed like a never-ender supply of debris. The contractor did not know where the tombstone had come from and his story appeared on a local news cast in hopes of finding somebody who knew about the gravestone and return it back to its rightful home.

The Washington County Cemetery Preservation Group contacted the news reporter by email, who in turn forwarded the email to the contractor. A representative from the group immediately began researching the cemeteries of the area and began searching other historical and genealogical resources to find out where the Tillman stone belongs.

The tombstone itself read “N.J. Tillman, born Jan 1, 1832, died Feb 21, 1895.” Several researchers had Newton Jasper Tillman listed in their family trees. According to them, Tillman was born 1 Jan 1832 in Bedford Co., TN and died 21 Feb 1895 in Christian Co., MO. However, it seems odd that his tombstone was found in Fayetteville in Washington Co., AR. Did whoever removed his stone from the graveyard actually remove it Christian Co., MO? The information went on to mention that Newton Jasper Tillman was the son of Samuel Tillman and Mary Carter Perry. He was married twice. First to Mary Margaret

Mullins, daughter of Thomas Mullins and Matilda Mims, on 22 Oct 1857 Green Co., MO, and second to Anna Nancy Maberry, daughter of John O. Maberry and Mary Jane Pass, on 19 Feb 1880 Washington Co., AR.

According to the 1860 census of Christian Co., MO, N.J. Tillman and wife Mary were living there with their son John Newton Tillman, who was born earlier in Springfield, MO (Green County). By 1870, they were living in Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas. According to genealogical sources, Mary died on 26 Oct 1877 in Fayetteville, AR.

On January 11, 1895, a will for N.J. Tillman, with John Maberry and Nancy Ann Tillman listed as Executors, was recorded in Washington Co., AR. The will was proven on March 2, 1895 and stated that N.J. Tillman was deceased. The proof of will was done in Washington Co., AR as well. The new evidence made it seem likely that Tillman died in Washington Co., AR and not Christian Co., MO. But was he buried in Washington Co., AR as well?

Using a couple of resources, namely the Cemetery Locator and Map Guide for Washington County, Arkansas, compiled by Barbara C. Hale, and The Washington County History Book, it was possible to locate the burial location of Mr. Tillman. In the Locator Guide for Washington County, it referenced a Mullins Family Cemetery located in Fayetteville, Arkansas. It was a family cemetery often referred to as the Judge Mullins Family Cemetery. However, the Guide stated that it had not been located when it was published in 1995. However, after a few phone calls, it was finally located and permission was obtained to visit the location.



Mary Margaret Mullins Tillman



Martha Mullins Bray

Members of the Washington County Cemetery Preservation Group, along with the Contractor with the tombstone met at the location of the cemetery. Approximately 5 burials, including N.J. Tillman, were easily identified. The group confirmed that Tillman's stone matched the base that was still at the cemetery and alongside the base for his first wife, Mary Margaret (Mullins) Tillman. The stones that were identified were: Newton Jasper Tillman, Mary Margaret Tillman, T.E. Tillman, Martha (Mullins) Bray, and Susan (Mullins) Stearns. According to the Thomas Mullins story in the Washington County History Book, submitted by Paul Mullins on page 1248, Mary Margaret and Newton Jasper had four children who died young and are buried at "Old Mullins Cemetery." There were several others buried in the cemetery and according to later sources, several were exhumed and relocated to Evergreen Cemetery and Stearns (Ghering Chapel) Cemetery.

It is interesting to note that Martha Mullins married Patterson Bray. His death and burial information has not been found. Could he be buried in the Mullins Cemetery? We may never find out for sure.

The Mullins Family Cemetery has now been found again, properly recorded and photographed and preservation efforts are underway to preserve this little chunk of history in Fayetteville, Arkansas. – *Michael Freels*.



## Portland Cement Vs Historic Gravestones



The precise historical origins of Portland Cement are very complex and beyond the scope of this abstract, however its beginnings can be traced back into the late 1700s.

It was not until 1878, that a standard on Portland cement was issued by the Association of German Cement Manufacturers. In the following two decades, to the turn of the 19th century, increasingly large quantities of Portland Cement were imported into America at an exponential rate. It became the next best thing since "sliced bread" in the construction industry.

Portland Cement hardened much more quickly than lime based materials, from hydration rather than carbonation, becoming extremely dense in a short time span. It quickly became

the material of choice for not only new construction, but also in many forms of “restoration” work. Little was known about its longevity and even less was about its future reversibility, a term not yet even invented in the emerging fields of historic preservation and object conservation.

It was not until quite recently, over the last few decades that gravestone conservation has become an accepted scientific field of study, fostering events like this Cemetery Preservation Summit. Even today, the majority of historic memorials, which are repaired, are not conserved by individuals with adequate training throughout most of America.

Of all the possible gravestone conservation challenges that can be encountered, the one that can be feared the most is gravestone and cemetery monuments that have been previously repaired with a hard Portland Cement based mortar and or concrete.

The most common type of gravestone to fracture, are the thin marble slab style stones, commonly only about 2 inches in thickness. Even when new, this narrow thickness created a very weak material design, but once weathered and or leaning they are easily snapped off at or above grade. By far the quickest and most common repair performed in this situation is to simply “puddle” or stick the broken stone into a crude liquid concrete, prop it up and let it harden.

Unfortunately, gravestones that were repaired in this manner often end up being re-broken again from storm damage, lawn mowers, etc. The soft marble meeting the very hard Portland Cement concrete also creates a weak point, where these incompatible materials meet. Additionally the transmission of salts and other chemical interactions can contribute to the weakness.

Large gravestones and multiple piece monuments are also not immune to the misused Portland Cement disease. Leaning monuments are often straightened and then finished off, with a band of concrete around the entire lower base. Sometimes, even new monument installations were simply placed into a wet concrete mass. If these monuments end up leaning and or toppling the concrete can make their resetting extremely difficult.

Finally, Portland Cement also makes an extremely strong mortar, grout or glue. One that is nearly impossible to ever remove from a softer stone such as marble, sandstone or slate. Therefore, if past repairs were performed with a very hard mortar they can make re-working and repairing the stones a second time an almost impossible nightmare.

This presentation is based on stones that I have encountered with this Portland Cement Disease from all over America. I will offer many varying solutions that I have formulated, to solve this very difficult conservation challenge. - *Jonathan Appell*

WCCPG Board Members are: Mike Freels, Judy Faulkner, Bob Young, and Christina Thompson. Contact us at: [wccpg@aol.com](mailto:wccpg@aol.com)

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*D/2 is available for purchase from WCCPG to interested persons. This cleaning agent is the best for cleaning gravestones and is used in all of the National cemeteries across the U.S. and is used for cleaning many monuments as well and is well-recommended. WCCPG will teach any interested person how to use D/2 to clean stones and we will meet with any group at their cemetery and do a demonstration of this amazing cleaner. Contact WCCPG at [wccpg@aol.com](mailto:wccpg@aol.com) or call 479-856-5557.*

Join the Washington County Cemetery Preservation Group and if you are already a member, it is time to renew your memberships!

Membership Levels

\_\_\_ Marble - \$10.

\_\_\_ Granite - \$25.

\_\_\_ Fieldstone - \$50.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your membership dues (due every July) to WCCPG c/o Heritage Center, 149 Water Ave, Springdale, AR 72762