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R384
48
Remfry, John, 1883-1962
Papers, 1863, 1939, 1954, 1959-1962.

Material concerning Western
Cemetery. Letter of Bruce Hoblitzell
to John Remfry, 28 November 1961.

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Louisville 20-10y 9/24/01

Mr. Emmet R. Fields
c/o The Legal Aid Soc. of Louis
205 So 4th St
City of
Dear Sir.

Noting my letter was quite in conclusion
will try to clear up the matter. The Committee
on City History are trying to locate the lots
or graves of all persons buried in Old
Western Cemetery, Jeff bet 16 and 17th St.

The Low Herald carried a head line viz
City sued for removing grave markers. Low
Herald Aug 10-1922-

Dependents of wealthy Jewers seek to
prevent molesting of family Burial spot
in old Cemetery on Jefferson St.

Atty. Matt J. Holt genl counsel for Legal Aid
Society on behalf of Mrs Sarah Beard
and daughter Miss Fannie Beard.

Mr Beard jeweler establishment was
located at Bullitt and Main. purchased a lot
in the cemetery from the city on July 2-1835-

Mrs Beard and daughter. old reside 1424
Story Ave. as of Aug 10-1922.

This is the story as I was told from clipping
Only the Lot number is now required for the

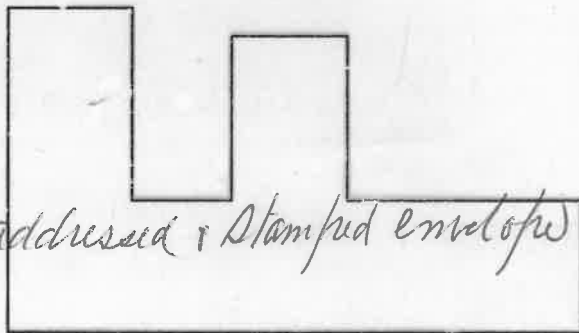
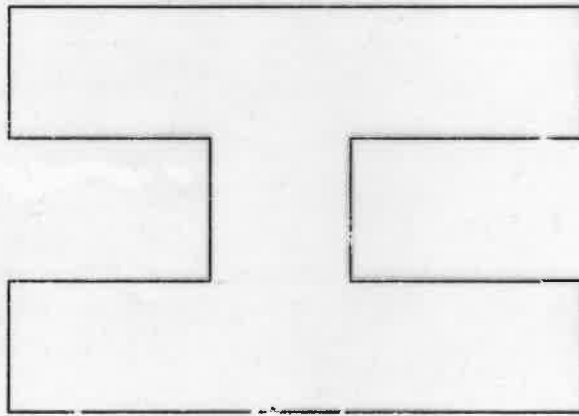
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society to formulate their plans

For about 20 years I have been trying
to locate my grandmother's lot. Eliza Spurr
but no success.

Yours Truly
John W. Rempsey

3014 Rose Lawn Blvd.



Self addressed & stamped envelope

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Patton, Capt. James 1748 - 1815
" Geo W. 1811 - 1819
" Phoebe 1783 - 1848

Henry, Henry J. and Wife Elizabeth S.
daughter - William and Catherine Brown.

Spurrer, James A. Born 9/30/1808 - D. 9/12/1873

See clippings on Mt. Cemetery.

City sued for removing grave markers
Low Herald Aug 10th 1922 -

Descendants of Nathaniel Jeweler seek to
prevent molesting of family Burial Spot
in Old Cemetery on Jeff St.

Atty Matt J. Holt, General Counsel for
Legal Aid Society - on behalf of Mass

as Paupers Field. 161 X 420 as African.

198 X 157 as Strangers Lot. the remainder

S

Sarah Beard and her daughter Miss Fannie

Beard

Mr Beard's jewelry establishment was
located at Bullitt & Main. purchased a lot
in the cemetery from the city on July 2-1835
Mrs Beard and daughter reside 1424
Story Ave (near) as of Aug-10-1922.

Annual Reports

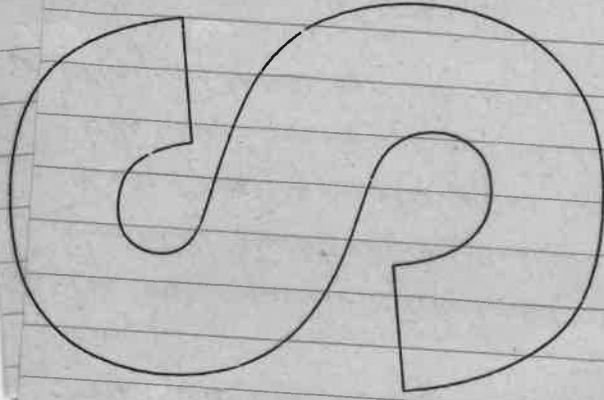
Louisville, Ky. 1893 - P 552-L 888 a

Pages 439- The Western Cemetery.

Acquired by the City of Low. in 1832 by deed
of conveyance from Nathaniel B. Beall and
Commercial Bank of Ky.

Ground for burial was 162 x 420 feet set aside
as Pauper Field. 161 x 420 as African.

198 x 157 as Strangers Lot, the remainder



[redacted]
of this land was used as a grave estimated
It is very near that any burials is made
there and very many disinterments have
been made and the remains of the dead
re-interred elsewhere.

In many respects the use of this
Muslim Cemetery are said not to be reputable
and we respectfully urge the City of Low
transfer the entire property to the Board of
Park Commissioners for a public park with the
following provisions viz:

[redacted]

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State Historical Society Register 28.
Page 47 to 60 inc.

Wiley Jno. native of Renfrewshire
Scotland. Died Feb. 2-1856 aged 55 yrs

Banks, William Talbot, elder son of
D.G. & M. A. Banks, died Low 7/7/1847 -
age 34-5-2

Yeatman, Thomas, died on board a
steam boat during his passage from
Nashville Tenn to Low. 6/2/1855 - 48 yrs

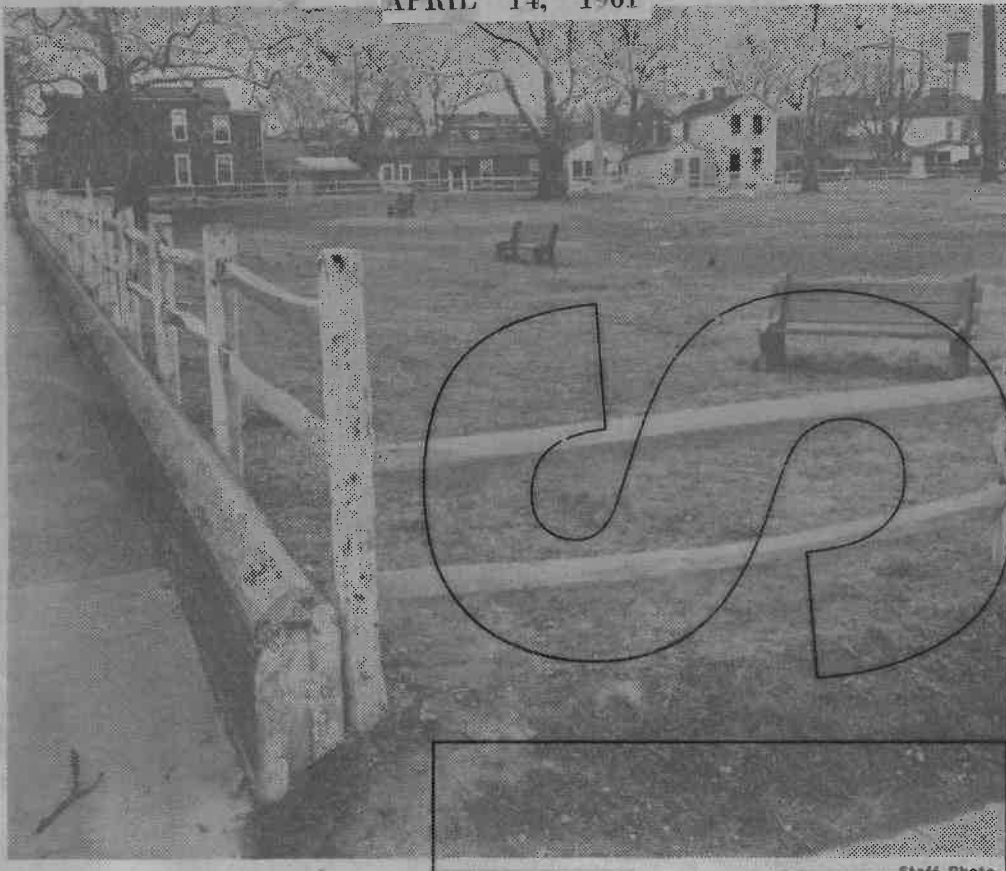
Spurrin, Sarah Ann 1829

Sewers, Sarah Ann 1804-1894

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APRIL 14, 1961



A RUSTIC FENCE has been installed, at a cost of \$992, around the pioneer park being developed by the City in the old Western Cemetery on Jefferson east of 16th. The park, which will have a rustic fountain, walkways, and eventually a log-cabin lodge, will be dedicated May 30. It is part of the City's program to help the Neighborhood Improvement Association renew the area.

Area Renewal Project Pays Off, So City Seeks To Expand It

Operation Bootstrap, a do-it-yourself renewal project near old Western Cemetery, was so successful the City would like to see it expanded about seven-fold.

Officials hope to see a number of neighborhood improvement clubs formed in the area from Broadway to Main, and 15th to 28th streets.

City officials discussed the plans with representatives of the Louisville Urban League and several churches last night

at the Central Christian Church at 17th and Jefferson. Operation Bootstrap was organized last summer to renovate a 12-block area west and south of Western Cemetery, 15th and Jefferson. The area involved lies between 15th, 20th, Jefferson and Stone Alley.

City Housing Inspector James Taylor reported today that there have been 630 improvements to homes and lots there since July 1.

Taylor said 25 dilapidated

houses and 46 sheds have been torn down, and 15 new garages built. There were 182 electrical improvements, 183 remodeling jobs, 71 plumbing improvements and 108 paint jobs, he said.

The program grew out of requests from residents for City help in improving the neighborhood.

What emerged was a sort of deal: City officials agreed to pave streets and alleys, in-

stall street lights and remove junk from alleys. In return, the residents formed their own organization to encourage owners to improve private dwellings.

Depends On Response

B. Evarest Nofsinger, acting director of building and housing inspection, said he has discussed the expansion of Operation Bootstrap with Mayor Bruce Hoblitzell. How much the City spends on public improvements in the larger areas will depend in part on the response of property owners, he said.

People interested in joining neighborhood improvement clubs are asked to call Taylor at the Department of Building and Housing Inspection at City Hall, or Mrs. John Walls,

or Mrs. Marion T. Hodge of the Community Organization Department at the Urban League.

Dedication Date Set

Parks Director William A. Moore said today the newly created park in the eastern end of Western Cemetery will be dedicated May 30, Memorial Day.

The park, which covers about two-thirds of a block, has already been surrounded by a pioneer-style wooden fence.

On dedication day, Moore said, it will contain a three-tier fountain, a flag pole, and a network of walkways. Later a park lodge will be built there and picnic tables and lights will be installed.

The park is being developed with a pioneer theme in honor of a number of Louisville's earliest settlers who are buried there.

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BRUCE HOBLITZELL
MAYOR

CITY OF LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY

November 28, 1961

Nov. 30-1961

Mr. John H. Remfrey
3014 Rose Lawn Boulevard
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Remfrey:

The citizens of Louisville and I are very much indebted to you for having served as a member of the Historical Committee, charged with the responsibility of properly marking Western Cemetery and the grave of John C. Bucklin in Cave Hill Cemetery.

The Western Cemetery monument has been completed and I do hope that your further recommendations of a fenced-in area properly shrubbed with new entrance from Jefferson Street can be realized during the next administration. The marker for former Mayor Bucklin's grave is under order and I hope can be finished and proper ceremony held before the first of the year.

It is my earnest hope that the new mayor will continue the activities of this committee because you have been so interested and so efficient in obtaining information and carrying out your plans. I will always be in your debt and willing to cooperate with you in any way in the future.

May God bless you all and keep you continuously interested in the history and the tradition of this great city.

Most sincerely yours,

BRUCE HOBLITZELL

BH/gt

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December 8th. 1961

*Recd
12/9/61*

*Mrs. Sam H. McMeekin
2240 Douglass Boulevard
Louisville 5, Kentucky*

Dear Mr. Ramfry;

Thank you for your letter. I hope that you can get Colonel Langford to write or dictate his memories of Western. I have been on the trail of other names but have made little progress so will write to the paper again.

I thought your letter to the new Mayor was fine and am returning it. I imagine he is swamped at present but hope when he has more time that he will cooperate.

Sincerely yours,

Isabel M^cS. M^cMeekin

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Louisville, Ky. Dec. 6-61

Mrs. Sam McNeekin
2240 Douglas Block
City 5

Dear Mrs. McNeekin,

Just a note to keep you informed of my
activities concerning Western.

We now have a new recruit. ~~Bob~~ W. A. Langford
who we met at the dedication, he lived around
the 16 + Market area and knows considerable about
the cemetery. He has phoned me twice giving some
historical information. I requested him to write
his story of facts, that it would enhance the
history of Louisville, especially the area below 12th St.
The names of Kirschner, ~~Ben~~ and ~~Reby~~, of 3814
Miami ave. claim to have two children buried
in Western. I shall try and get in touch with
this party.

I have further invited the help of our own Mayor,
a copy of which I enclose for your reading, if you
wish to make a copy. etc.

Sincerely yours
John H. Remfrey.

77X7

January 17, 1959

Mrs. Samuel McMeekin
2240 Douglass Boulevard
Louisville 5, Kentucky

Recd 1/20/1959

Dear Mr. Remfry;

Thank you so much for your interesting letter.

When I was working on my Louisville book I tried in every way I knew to get something constructive done about the old cemetery and the gravestones that were still there. I took the matter up with the Mayor, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames and the Filson Club. None of them was interested enough to follow through on the matter and I gave up in despair.

I have heard that some years ago a Mrs. Eugene Ray of Shelbyville sent a list of graves to the Filson Club and am writing to Judge Hill to ask if this is true.

In the past week I have had many queries and calls and have requested that those who are interested get in touch with the Filson Club which keeps files of all available records.

I am delighted to have your list and am sending it to Judge Hill (a copy, I am keeping the original.)

I am going to try very hard to get some member of the Colonial Dames, or possibly a student at the University of Louisville, to follow through. I wish I could do it myself, but I have many other projects on hand.

Sincerely yours,

Isabel W. McMeekin

McMeekin sent 2:30 PM to-day 1/17/59 Saturday

Promised to send copy of Bill 111 by the 1/17/59

77x7

The challenge is up to those interested, to get alive and and assemble all information, including pictures, so for those like my self can't establish title to the burial plots.

Surely much more data has been gotten together in previous investigations. Two pictures appearing in the Sunday edition were never shown before, so I believe many bones are available. I believe the lady with packages at left is you. I have your book The Gateway City, and enjoy in very much.

*Very truly yours
John W Remfry*

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Louisville 7, Ky
January 15th 1959

Mrs. Clara M. Mackin
Dear Friend

Mrs. M. Mackin
Phone 2:30 PM
today 1/17/59
Saturday

The writer had just about conceded defeat in my effort to keep alive and bring to pass a solution to the old story Western Cemetery, when the article "Lost Resting Place" appeared in last Sunday's Courier-Journal edited by

Promised to send
copy of Bill
by 1/23/59

Carl Sutton. I received a letter from Mr. Meeks Director of Parks yesterday, saying the time is far off before the project can be consummated, in fact he says, quote,

To get the project developed, help is needed by so many on the outside of City government, in order to sway the thinking of so many on the matter, unquote.

The challenge is up to those interested, to get alive and assemble all information, including pictures, so for those like my self could establish title to the burial plots.

Surely much more data has been gotten together in previous investigations. Two pictures appearing in the Sunday edition show graves shown before. So I believe many names are available. I believe the lady with packages at left is you. I have your book The Gateway City, and enjoy in very much.

Very truly yours
John W. Ramsey

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