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FEBRUARY 24, 2021

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Cemeteries

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agent for the town of Lexington, "for a Negro Grave Yard." 9th, 1898, described a proposal at a town council meeting to sell the old cemetery lot for development. 1947 deed for the sale of one of those lots stated the property could not be sold or leased to "any other than those of the white race." The U.S. Supreme Court held those types of covenants were unconstitutional in the 1948 case of Shelley v. Kraemer.

Robertson Jr. observed, he was a "servant" to Gen. Thomas J. without a Stone to record his veteran of Jackson's command of Jim." A count book referred to payments the east by "The Avenue," later by Washington Street and on etery lot bordered on the south missioner for Willson's estate. Someone eventually learned of in Paine's estate case described White sold one of the town's two purchase. A few months later, a conveyance by Judge William As a conveyance by Judge William McAllister to the town for a six-acre plot, the second from the town to McAllister for the three acres. The second council instructed the cemetery committee to "employ the ser- of an examiner in defining the limits of the lot," and to con- struct an enclosure for the cem- etery and a "suitable entrance." The committee was instructed in October to "purchase at once any portion of the grounds in the new colored cemetery for the interment of bodies." A motion was approved to discontinue the burial of the remains in the old colored cemetery. A persistent story over the years was that most remains in the old cemetery were relocated to Evergreen, but that is unlikely. The February proposal had been to purchase "additional grounds for the cemetery," and the opening of a new cemetery would not require relocating bodies. The expense would have been sub- stantial, and many graves were unmarked. A few gravestones in Evergreen cemetery were found some remains were later moved, but the num- bers remained unmarked. Evidence that most graves re- mained undisturbed came from remains in the old colored cemetery. The committee had turned over one of those very stones to the request that proper- ties were turned over one of those very stones to the request that proper- ties were turned over one of those very stones to the request that proper- perties were turned over one of those very stones to the request that proper- perties were turned over one of those very stones to the request that proper- perties were turned over one of those very stones to the request that proper- The matter was con- tinued for further investigation." That request would not have been made if the bodies had been relocated to Evergreen. It is not clear when the Ev- ergreen cemetery was first opened. A newspaper article in 1908 de- scribed the cemetery of "the colored Kings of Pythias, Odd Fellows, and the Turners," that marched in regalia from Drum- mond's Hall to the Randolph Street M.E. Church, and then to the "colored cemetery," to lay flowers on the graves. The same is as it was in 1928 when Judge Henry Holt appointed trustees for Evergreen Cemetery, Lex- ington's "colored cemetery." The trustees were Henry L. Walker, John J. Pleasants, John E. Peppers, James L. White, William L. Price, and Johnathan A. Pettigrew. The Old Cemetery Is Sold undisturbed, and properly main- tained, the old cemetery re- mained under town ownership until 1946. The council called a joint meeting with Evergreen's president in September to consider a proposal to sell the lot. Evergreen attorney C. S. Glasgow "pointed out that he had investigated the matter thoroughly and believed that all of the bodies had been removed from this lot and rein- terrered in the Evergreen Ceme- tery." What "evidence" Glasgow based the opinion on, he did not say. The "prophecy" that the vacant lot was "to be sold;" the petition by the "colored cemetery" was "forgotten;" the petition was "in the dust of the old burying ground." The next few years.

Over the summer a new com- mittee later contracted with John White, and the old cemetery was turned over to the committee.

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