



Jonathon John 4W came to Connersville from Kentucky and became a close friend of Connersville's founder, John Conner. Mr. John was, at first, so

disillusioned with the land that he didn't unpack his wagon for three weeks. While there are no reports of encounters with his spirit, isn't it interesting that the gentleman who portrays him appears transparent in this photo?

There are several markers like the one on the left. They were commonly used to mark the graves of twins 5E. The arches symbolize being reunited in the hereafter. The angel on the stone of "Our Georgie" 3W indicates innocence.



Mary Ann Helm 3E, with her first husband Elias Wightman, founded the town of Matagorda, Texas. After Wightman's death, she married Meredith Helm, the president of the Whitewater Canal Company. From the balcony of their home on Third Street Hill, Mr. Helm could watch the boats. Mrs. Helm raised the funds to build the Trinity Episcopal Church at 6th & Eastern in 1859. She was a teacher and author.



Photo courtesy of Josh Lemen Photography



Etched in Stone the story of

Connersville City Cemetery

Between Grand & Western, north of 12th Street
Connersville, Indiana

City Cemetery is the third burial ground in the city. Remains interred in the two previous burial grounds were moved here when this cemetery was dedicated in 1851.

In these fourteen acres rest the pioneers who began to build our city and county. This brochure contains only a few of their stories.

The soldiers' circle is dedicated to the memory of our Union Army soldiers.

City Cemetery is maintained by the City of Connersville and has been designated as a local historic district. Many volunteer hours have been spent on its restoration and preservation.



Guided tours are offered periodically
by Historic Connersville, Inc.
(765) 825-0946 www.historicconnersville.org

This program was made possible by an Historic Preservation Education Grant from Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Col. W.W. Frybarger 2W obtained a cannon and organized a company of a hundred local men for the Union Army. When President Lincoln's funeral train came through Indianapolis, Col. Frybarger was chosen to supervise the draping of our state capitol in mourning. He is buried with his parents and his second wife Amanda in the family plot. Below is the grave of his first wife Desdemona who died during childbirth. The infant son died 17 days later. The marker of Desdemona and Little Sammy is designed to look like a bed. The inscription says, "Not Dead, Just Sleeping". Following Desdemona's death, he married her sister. His wives were the daughters of Gabriel Ginn who served as Sheriff and Clerk of Fayette County 1830 - 1842.



Some markers are notable because of the inscription or material. The top left marker 5W is made of metal instead of stone. The military marker of John McIlwain 3W (top right) is the most ornate military stone

in the cemetery. Major McIlwain died in battle in Georgia. Bottom left is the Mount family's marker which features a carving of a beautiful lady. The top of the Hankins family marker (bottom right) is surrounded by a garland of intricately carved roses. 2W





The grave of little Vivian Allison 5W (1894-1899) has many visitors. When five year old Vivian died, her grief stricken parents placed her dollhouse, including its furniture and her dolls, on her grave.

Volunteers make certain that her house is always well maintained in her memory.

Oscar Wetherald 2W ran away to join the Union Army at the age of fourteen. Like so many other young men, he died of disease in Tennessee. His mother went by train to claim his body and bring him home to Connersville. A family stone is also dedicated to his brother Henry who died in the war and was buried in Georgia.



In April of 1906, two young friends went duck hunting along the Whitewater River. Edward Florea, 5E pictured above, and Francis Johnson were unaware that torrential rains upriver would cause flash flooding in Fayette County. Both were caught up in the waters. Johnson's body was soon found, but Florea wasn't located for almost a month. Due to his family's standing in the community and Eddie's popularity, Mayor Finly Gray ordered every business and factory in Connersville to close during the funeral, an action unheard of before or since.



Benjamin Claypool 5W was an attorney and Indiana State Senator. The Claypool family farm was called Maplewood and was located in the area where Maplewood School now stands. The

family donated the land for Grand Avenue Baptist Church. In the days when funerals were held within a day of the death, notices were hand delivered to family and friends. This is the invitation to the service for their baby daughter who is buried in the family plot.

FUNERAL INVITATION.


 Yourself and Family are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of the infant Daughter of R. F. & A. M. Claypool, born this Residence on Banner St., and the First Presbyterian Church this day (Monday Jan. 2d, 1859.) at 1 o'clock. P. M. Connersville, January 5, 1859.

A group of characters from a cemetery tour stand in front of the cemetery's only mausoleum 4W. The tomb remains a mystery because it was found to be empty, and no information is available regarding its origin or purpose.



Dr. George Chitwood 3W and his sons George and Joshua were early Fayette County physicians. Both sons served as surgeons in the Union Army. George Sr. and Jr. rest in City Cemetery. Joshua, pictured to the right, is buried at Dale Cemetery. After the Civil War ended, Joshua served as staff physician for General George Custer. He resigned and returned home before the Battle of Little Big Horn.



Western Avenue Side

SECT. NO. 1	SECT. NO. 2	SECT. NO. 3	SECT. NO. 4	SECT. NO. 5	SECT. NO. 6	SECT. NO. 7	SECT. NO. 8
100-100-101	100-100-102	100-100-103	100-100-104	100-100-105	100-100-106	100-100-107	100-100-108
100-100-109	100-100-110	100-100-111	100-100-112	100-100-113	100-100-114	100-100-115	100-100-116
100-100-117	100-100-118	100-100-119	100-100-120	100-100-121	100-100-122	100-100-123	100-100-124
100-100-125	100-100-126	100-100-127	100-100-128	100-100-129	100-100-130	100-100-131	100-100-132
100-100-133	100-100-134	100-100-135	100-100-136	100-100-137	100-100-138	100-100-139	100-100-140
100-100-141	100-100-142	100-100-143	100-100-144	100-100-145	100-100-146	100-100-147	100-100-148
100-100-149	100-100-150	100-100-151	100-100-152	100-100-153	100-100-154	100-100-155	100-100-156
100-100-157	100-100-158	100-100-159	100-100-160	100-100-161	100-100-162	100-100-163	100-100-164
100-100-165	100-100-166	100-100-167	100-100-168	100-100-169	100-100-170	100-100-171	100-100-172
100-100-173	100-100-174	100-100-175	100-100-176	100-100-177	100-100-178	100-100-179	100-100-180
100-100-181	100-100-182	100-100-183	100-100-184	100-100-185	100-100-186	100-100-187	100-100-188
100-100-189	100-100-190	100-100-191	100-100-192	100-100-193	100-100-194	100-100-195	100-100-196
100-100-197	100-100-198	100-100-199	100-100-200	100-100-201	100-100-202	100-100-203	100-100-204
100-100-205	100-100-206	100-100-207	100-100-208	100-100-209	100-100-210	100-100-211	100-100-212
100-100-213	100-100-214	100-100-215	100-100-216	100-100-217	100-100-218	100-100-219	100-100-220
100-100-221	100-100-222	100-100-223	100-100-224	100-100-225	100-100-226	100-100-227	100-100-228
100-100-229	100-100-230	100-100-231	100-100-232	100-100-233	100-100-234	100-100-235	100-100-236
100-100-237	100-100-238	100-100-239	100-100-240	100-100-241	100-100-242	100-100-243	100-100-244
100-100-245	100-100-246	100-100-247	100-100-248	100-100-249	100-100-250	100-100-251	100-100-252
100-100-253	100-100-254	100-100-255	100-100-256	100-100-257	100-100-258	100-100-259	100-100-260
100-100-261	100-100-262	100-100-263	100-100-264	100-100-265	100-100-266	100-100-267	100-100-268
100-100-269	100-100-270	100-100-271	100-100-272	100-100-273	100-100-274	100-100-275	100-100-276
100-100-277	100-100-278	100-100-279	100-100-280	100-100-281	100-100-282	100-100-283	100-100-284
100-100-285	100-100-286	100-100-287	100-100-288	100-100-289	100-100-290	100-100-291	100-100-292
100-100-293	100-100-294	100-100-295	100-100-296	100-100-297	100-100-298	100-100-299	100-100-300

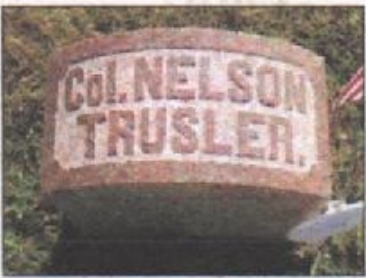
To aid in locating featured graves are marked with a section number in blue.

The carvings on markers have a meaning. Symbols you might see:

- Acorns and/or Oak Leaves – Power, Authority, Victory.
- Angel – Innocence or guidance into Heaven
- Anchor – Hope, Steadfastness
- Chain, three links – Grand United Order of Oddfellows
- Compass & Square – Masonic Symbol
- Cross – Symbol of Christian religion
- Curtains/Drapes – Mourning, End of Life on Earth
- Hand Pointing up – Pathway to Heaven
- Hands Clasped - Farewell
- Ivy – Immortality, Friendship
- Lamb – Innocence, usually marks a child's grave
- Rose, fully open – death in the prime of life
- Rosebud – early death
- Tree Stump – Life cut short
- Urn – Immortality
- Weeping Willow – Mourning, eternal grief
- Wreath – Saintliness, Glory, Victory in Death

Things to remember when you visit a cemetery:

- Never sit or lean on the stones.
- Never take anything from a grave.
- Don't leave trash..
- Never mark on stones or scrape them.
- Do not pick or dig up flowers. Many of them were placed here long ago in memory of a loved one. They may have been put there to mark a grave.
- If there are weeds around a marker, and you want to remove them, do so gently, with your hands, to avoid marring the stone. Never use weed killer, as it can damage a marker.



Colonel Nelson Trusler 2W served in the Union Army, as did his brother Major Gilbert Trusler 2W. Their brother Milton 5E is known as the "Father of Rural Mail Delivery". Milton served several terms in the Indiana legislature. They were the grandsons of Revolutionary War veteran James Trusler who came from Virginia to Franklin County, Indiana about 1812.



Tilden McCombs 1W was born in Ohio and came to Fayette County about 1840. Tilden was a potter in Connersville. His son George began a metal fabricating concern in 1896. The business, McCombs & Son, is still in operation, being perhaps the oldest continual family owned business in Connersville. In 2015, the family designed and crafted the new arched sign which graces the cemetery entrance on Grand Avenue.



The Roots 1W name has been associated with manufacturing in Connersville since 1845 when brothers Francis and Philander started their woolen mill. By 1860, they had patented their invention, the Roots rotary blower which was sold worldwide. Both brothers were inventors, businessmen, and community leaders. Although the family no longer owns the company, Roots Manufacturing is still present in Connersville.



Frederick "Fritz" Conwell 1W was a well known artist and sign painter. His father, an acrobat with the Barnum and Bailey Circus, met and married a tapestry painter while performing in Russia. The father wanted Fritz to be an acrobat, while the mother hoped he would be an artist. Fritz was a talented skater, but his love was art. Below is a Christmas card he designed for the residents of the mansion built by Connersville industrialist William Newkirk..

Mr. Newkirk had three wives. The first two, Mahala and Matilda 4E are buried in City Cemetery. Their graves are shown below, along with an example of Victorian era mourning attire. Behind the mourner, the Newkirk mansion, built in 1883, as it looks today.



In the mid 1800's, widows were expected to mourn the death of a husband by dressing in black from head to toe for a year and a day. They were to wear a veil in public the entire time. Inhaling the dye used in the veils caused illness and death for some of the widows.



Dr. Vincent Gregg 5W began his practice in 1855 in Vienna, Indiana (now Glenwood). In 1858, he moved to Connersville,

where he spent the remainder of his life. During the Civil War Dr. Gregg held a commission from Governor Morton as an army surgeon.

The marker of the Tatman family 4E is one of the most ornate monuments in City Cemetery. The Tatmans were owners of the local newspaper. The family supported many community endeavors. Their name continues to be associated with printing services.



Gale Ford 3E was the captain of the "Patriot", the first boat to come into Connersville on the Whitewater Canal. The canal took people and goods between this area and the Ohio River. Floods and droughts caused problems for the canal, and it was soon replaced by the railroad which proved to be a faster and more reliable mode of transportation. The Canal House was built in 1842 as the headquarters for the canal. It is located at 111 E. 4th Street and is owned by Historic Connersville, Incorporated.

