



**SELF GUIDED  
WALKING TOUR**

**OF THE**

**LEE'S SUMMIT  
HISTORICAL CEMETERY**

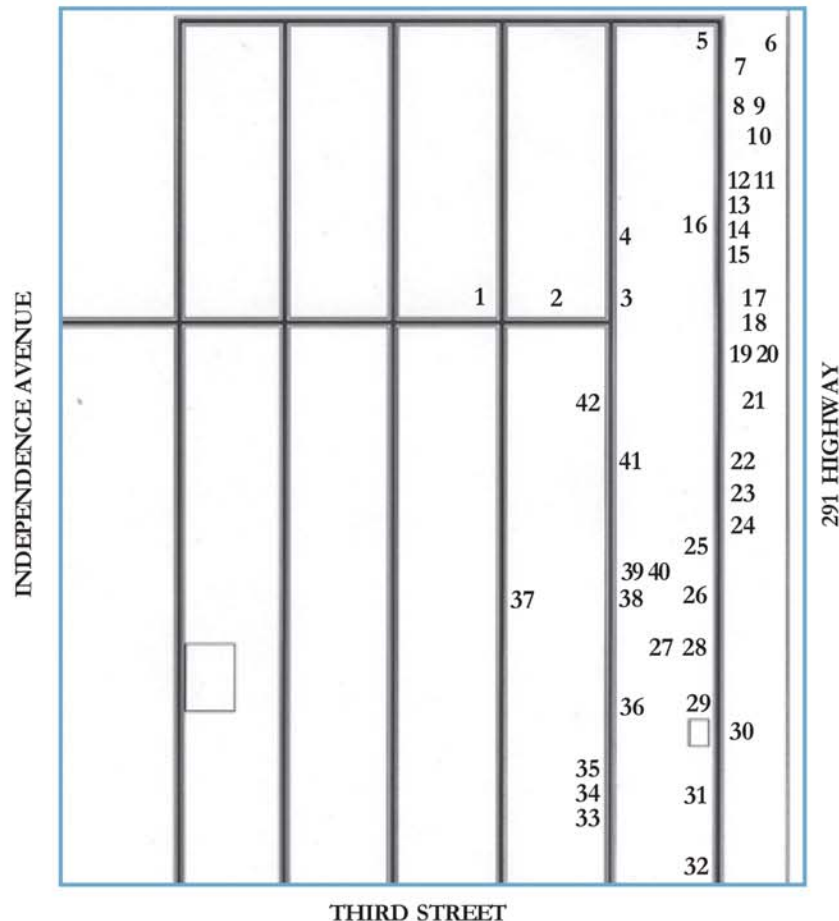
**TOUR 1**



**Robert, Cole and Jim Younger**



LANGSFORD ROAD



**HISTORY OF THE CEMETERY**

William B. Howard donated the oldest addition of the cemetery to the Town of Strother in 1865. The first section contained 2 acres and was considered to be out in the country. Before this time there were many family cemeteries that dotted the countryside.

In May of 1875, P.H. Grinter, Deputy County Surveyor, finished surveying the second addition of the cemetery.

On April 8, 1887 the third addition was added to the cemetery. This would have been during the Victorian era when funerals were very ritualistic.

On December 8, 1899 the city clerk was empowered to purchase 2 additional acres from Mrs. William B. Howard.

On April 12, 1907 two more acres were added to the cemetery.

September 2, 1915, Col. Brown Carlsberg donated money for the sidewalks along the cemetery.

On October 1, 1917, a family lot of 12 graves sold for \$5.00 for all 12 graves.

On July 9, 1931, cemetery roads were graveled.

On September 25, 1975 the cemetery roads were paved.

The Lee's Summit Historical Cemetery contains the remains of many of Quantrills Raiders and Civil War veterans. There is also a "Potters Field" which contains the remains of those who could not afford to purchase a family lot. Many of the influenza victims of 1918 are buried in this section of the cemetery. There is also a section for infants. Many slaves are also buried in this area. Their headstones have long eroded away.

The most famous resident of the cemetery is Cole Younger. He rests in peace along with his mother and two of his brothers.



**1 Seth Hunt, 1871-1950** Served as the mayor of Lee's Summit from 1926-1928. During his tenure as mayor, Lee's Summit's city council started to spend local tax dollars to pave roads for the first time.



**2 "Potter's" Field** The site of many graves, marked and unmarked. Citizens who could not afford a headstone are some of the residents of the grave site. Many infants are buried here. Former slaves are also buried here in graves that have since lost their markers. Here too are victims of the influenza epidemic of 1918, which was a global pandemic caused by the aftermath of the First World War.



**3 Oliver B. Shephard, 1842-1868** Rode with William Quantrill during the Civil War. Following the war, Mr. Shephard robbed a bank in Russellville, Kentucky, and was subsequently shot by a vigilante posse. His grave is reputed to be the oldest original burial in the cemetery.



**4 John O. Boggs, 1818-1900** Born in Lawrence County Kentucky, and came to the Jackson County area on the eve of the Civil War. He served as a justice of the peace in Lee's Summit in the 1870's.



**5 John & Harriet Proudfit, 1836-1920** Were some of the earliest settlers to the Lee's Summit area, and owned a seed and farm tool business on the corner of 3rd and Market streets.

**6 Frank Harbaugh, 1831-1908** Rode with Quantrill's cavalry.

**7 George W. "Bud" Wigginton, 1843-1918** A valued member of Quantrill's cavalry, received the Southern Cross for his service.

**8 John C. Howard, 1815-1885** One of the area's earliest settlers, who moved into the area from Tennessee in the 1840's.

**9 J. M. Shrou, b. 1845** Owned one of the cities first grocery stores, which also housed a barbershop.

**10 W. T. Christmas, 1821-1874** A local socialite and lawyer donated two acres of land for an early Methodist Church in Lee's Summit. His grave's iron vault is a French styled tomb, made popular in New Orleans.

**11 W. H. Colbern, 1829-1892** Opened the first Bank of Lee's Summit with J. N. Hargis after he left the grocery business.



**12 Cole Younger, 1844-1915** He is perhaps the most famous resident of the cemetery. Following service in Quantrill's cavalry, he made an infamous career for himself in the James-Younger Gang. After serving a 25 year stint in a Minnesota jail for bank robbery in Northfield, Minnesota, Cole returned to Lee's Summit where he spent the rest of his life living as a model citizen.



**13 Jim Younger, 1848-1902** Rode with Quantrill and the James-Younger Gang. He was apprehended with his brothers, Cole and Robert, in 1876 in Minnesota following a botched bank robbery. Later, he killed himself when he was not permitted to marry a girl he had met while in Minnesota.



**14 Robert Ewing Younger, 1853-1889** Also rode with Quantrill and the James-Younger Gang. Robert would not, however, return to Lee's Summit with his brothers. He died during his 13 years of imprisonment in Minnesota of tuberculosis.

**15 Bursheba Fristoe Younger, 1816-1870** Mother of Cole, Jim, and Robert, came to the area in the 1840's from Tennessee.



**16 William A. Gattrell, 1817-1897** One of the city's founders, he was elected alderman in 1868. He also ran one of the first dry goods stores in the area called W. A. Gattrell and Co. on the corner of West Main and 3rd Streets.

**17 Thomas Winship, 1829-1906** Rode with the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

**18 James W. Scruggs, 1859-1912** Owned a plumbing and metal work construction business. He did the metal work on the first Lee's Summit High School at the corner of Main and 6th Streets.

**19 Nicholas B. Langsford, 1839-1898** Was one of the first proprietors of the cemetery. The Langsford family also owned a greenhouse on what was then Cemetery Road. Neighbors petitioned the City to rename Cemetery Road to Langsford Road. His son would later open the funeral home on 3rd Street and Jefferson.

**20 Pleasant Lea, 1807-1862** Was the town physician and the first postmaster of Big Cedar which existed before Strother. He was killed by Union soldiers during the Union occupation at what is now Howard Station Park.





**21 Jacob L. Powell, 1853-1930** Owned and operated one of the first meat packing houses in the downtown area.

**22 Madison Moorehouse, 1988-2004** Was a member of the Lee's Summit North Debate and Forensics squad.



**23 Wm Stone 1857-1895** Also buried here are Wm's wife, Jennie Stone, their child Jim Jack and Wm's Brother Jacob. This unusual carved stone, tree stump monument, is engraved with Modern Woodmen of America symbols. Though the society did not supply these monument types, members chose these types of headstones as tribute to their membership in the organization.



**24 George Spoonamore, 1822-1894** Rode with William Quantrill, and lost an eye during his service in the cavalry. He was known around Lee's Summit as "one-eyed George".



**25 Mathies Brown Ocker, 1845-1921** First came to Lee's Summit in 1867 from Pennsylvania, and started a home construction business that erected many of the city's early homes.



**26 Todd Menzies George, 1879-1969** Served as mayor and county judge on and off from the 20's to the 50's. He was perhaps one of the most beloved and controversial figures in Lee's Summit politics during that era. Mr. George is best known for his bid to beat Harry Truman for county judge.



**27 Josiah Collins, 1849-1902** Built the third house in the city and ran the local post office out of it. He also served as Jackson County Judge during and after Reconstruction.



**28 William Anderson, 1848-1892** Served as the mayor of the city from 1877 to 1878, but was involved in local politics from the earliest days of city government in the 1860's.

**29 Thomas C. Blackwell, 1855-1929** Was a major businessman and investor who owned several of the buildings around 3rd Street and Douglas. He built the cemetery's only vaulted tomb, which was finished in 1906.

**30 Ephram Lain, 1830-1898** Served as mayor from January 1898 until his death from pneumonia in May of the same year.



**31 Sephl. Armstrong, 1812-1893** This is a smaller carved stone, tree stump monument symbolizing the persons membership with Modern Woodmen of America. This fraternal benefit society was founded by Joseph Cullen Root in 1883 whose vision was to provide financial security for families.



**32 Oliver Lewis, 1847-1916** Joined the Confederate Army at 16, and later settled in Lee's Summit, opening the first stove and tin ware shop in town. He served as mayor from 1894 to 1895.



**33 Andrew J. Childs, 1822-1901** An early settler from Kentucky who built and owned an orchard and nursery off of SW Third Street.

**34 F. L. Hackler, 1864-1907** Practiced law with his brother, Mayor Thomas J. Hackler from 1887-1907 from their office in downtown Lee's Summit.



**35 Ernest Bennett, 1869-1904** Served as mayor of Lee's Summit from 1918 to 1920. He inherited the seed and tool shop from his father and the Proudfit family.

**36 John H. Harris, 1832-1918** He and his family donated land to the city that later became Harris Park.



**37 Robert Clore, 1814-1905** Was an early settler from Kentucky to the area. His grandson was the first Lee's Summit resident to die in World War I.



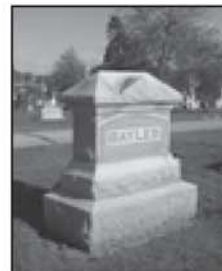
**38 Jane Fowler, 1789-1858** Whose headstone is the oldest in the cemetery, was moved from a family plot to the cemetery after it opened in 1865.

**39 William Strother Cowherd, 1860-1915** Served as the mayor of Kansas City from 1890-1894, and was later elected to Congress. He unsuccessfully sought the governor's office in 1908, and subsequently moved to Pasadena, CA where he was a private lawyer until his death.



**40 Emilie Strother Cowherd, 1830-1914** Was the mother of William, and the matriarch of the Cowherd family, who owned much of what is now Fleming Park.

**41 J. Howard Munns** Bought the city's first dry goods store from the original proprietors, Dryden and Powell.



**42 James A. Bayles, 1834-1916** Started the Western Missouri Nurseries, which did business all over the world in its prime.