

## THE KELLY CEMETERY

By Mark J. Lynn

Situated on a knoll overlooking Lake Katherine in one of Columbia's most exclusive residential neighborhoods, is the Kelly Cemetery. For nearly two hundred years it has been the burying ground for the descendants of Thomas Harwell, an eighteenth century Richland County pioneer. On July 16, 1784, he purchased a 640 acre tract, containing an area of land that presently consists of the Deaswood Subdivision, the entire northwest shore of Lake Katherine, along with parts of Forest Acres and Fort Jackson. Harwell settled his family on this land, and created a homestead. Some time later, according to family tradition, he accidentally shot and killed his sister, whom he then buried on a part of his land. Thus began the Kelly Cemetery.

The name of Kelly became associated with this cemetery when, following Harwell's death in 1808, the portion of his land that contained the cemetery was inherited by his daughter, Sarah Harwell Kelly. The early graves are located in the southwest corner, below three large trees. They are all unmarked, as the earliest original marker in the cemetery dates only to the 1860's. This small plot of land soon grew into the common burial ground for the rapidly expanding heirs of Thomas Harwell. Sarah Harwell Kelly died in the 1840's leaving this part of the land to her son, James Kelly. He would build a home and raise his family about a hundred yards north of the cemetery, on what was called Kelly Hill. He later divided up his land between three sons. The cemetery, as well as the home, was given to the youngest son, Benjamin E. Kelly in 1876. There he would also raise his children and some grandchildren, until his death in 1914. On October 21, 1913, shortly before his death, Benjamin separated the cemetery from the rest of his property, and deeded it over to three trustees; James J. Devereux, Patrick Devereux, and Claudius B. Dreher. The cemetery was also expanded at this time, growing in size from a half acre to three fourths of an acre. By the 1930's, Dreher was the last surviving trustee. He would then appoint three successors in, his son, Claudius B. Dreher, Jr., William Henry Bowers H. and Bennie B. Daniels. During the 1950's, the surrounding area was transformed from rural woodlands into an upscale neighborhood. A brick wall was erected around the cemetery at this time, replacing an old wire fence that had been put up in the 1920's. The following decades of the 1960's and 1970's, saw several attempts to do away with, or move the cemetery. Vandalism also struck during this time, with many of the old tombstones being broken, knocked over, or stolen. An iron entrance gate to the cemetery was also stolen. Metal Confederate Crosses disappeared in the mid-1980's. The cemetery fell into neglect, and several disputes over control occurred over the past two decades. By 1997, Claudius B. Dreher, Jr., like his father before him, was the last surviving trustee. When another dispute occurred early that year, Dreher called a meeting of family members to discuss the future of the cemetery. A second meeting was held a month later, when Dreher appointed three new trustees; Mark J. Lynn, Wyman M. Looney, and Douglas K. Pratt. The thirty two family members present endorsed this choice, and then voted to make several other decisions, including one to hold annual meetings. Since that time great efforts have been made to restore and maintain the cemetery. Several massive cleanups were conducted, as well as efforts to locate, identify, and mark previously unmarked graves. Eighteen new markers have been placed in the past year and a half. Interest within the family has also increased, as fifty three members attended the 1998 cemetery meeting. Finally, it should be noted that this is indeed a family cemetery, and that every person buried there, except the Reed / Walker Family buried together on the eastern side, are descendants of Thomas Harwell by blood, or marriage. There are several stories about a few other non-family members buried in unmarked graves, but these are hard to substantiate. The Kelly Cemetery remains today as it was two hundred years ago, the burying ground for the heirs of Thomas Harwell.

### Known persons buried in Kelly Cemetery

(Right Side of Cemetery)

Dolores M. Hipp	B. Aug. 18, 1909	D. April 15, 1998	
Joe W. Hipp	B. Dec. 10, 1900	D. April 5, 1978	
Inez Viola Kelly Daniels	B. Dec. 26, 1872	D. June 23, 1962	Wife of Marshall R. Daniels

Marshall R. Daniels	B. Feb. 21, 1885	D. Feb. 21, 1942	
Lewis G. Daniels	B. Feb. 21, 1913	D. Feb. 19, 1942	
Roy Hipp	B. 1899	D. 1899	Son of Inez Viola Kelly
Annie Kelly Reinecke	B. Dec. 24, 1903	D. Oct. 9, 1927	
Sallie A. Kelly	B. Oct. 17, 1880	D. July 30, 1964	
John Thomas Kelly	B. Aug. 3, 1888	D. Nov. 5, 1935	
Charles E. Kelly	B. Sept. 23, 1874	D. Jan. 18, 1929	
Robert L. Kelly	B. Aug. 16, 1878	D. Nov. 10, 1912	
B.E. Kelly	B. Nov. 15, 1844	D. June 6, 1914	Confederate Veteran
Maggie E. Kelly	B. April 22, 1849	D. Feb. 15, 1920	
James H. Kelly	B. Oct. 13, 1880	D. Mar. 4, 1929	
Deal J. Kelly	B. July 2, 1904	D. May 24, 1931	
Mattie A. Kelly	B. Sept. 4, 1883	D. Mar. 9, 1964	
Coley Kelly Hubbs	B. May 7, 1912	D. June 22, 1993	
Benjamin Edward Lee	B. Feb. 29, 1905	D. Sept. 25, 1972	World War II Veteran
Ella Kelly Lee	B. 1870	D. 1907	
William F. Lee	B. 1865	D. 1946	
Emma Ottolee Kelly	B. Oct. 1, 1878	D. Oct. 18, 1928	Unmarked
Frank Green Kelly	B. April 22, 1876	D. July 5, 1940	Unmarked
Ruth Shelley Byrd	B. Mar. 23, 1905	D. Mar. 17, 1966	
Claude E. Kelly	B. Jan. 31, 1908	D. Oct. 18, 1959	
Harriett L. Daniels	B. 1809	D. Jan. 6, 1888	
John Daniels	B. 1810	D. Aug. 10, 1887	
Emanuel Daniels	B. Nov. 13, 1849	D. July 23, 1895	
Warren E. Wilder Daniels	B. Dec. 2, 1854	D. June 16, 1932	Wife of Emanuel Daniels
Leonora Daniels	B. Feb. 18, 1884	D. June 16, 1901	Dau. of Emanuel and Warren
Sallie Daniels Reed	B. Jan. 3, 1876	D. July 2, 1955	Wife of Charles P. Reed
Annie Daniels Perry	B. July 15, 1877	D. Oct. 24, 1916	
Maude D. McDonald	B. 1894	D. 1970	
Mc McDonald	B. 1891	D. 1972	
Clarence E. Daniels	B. Jan. 10, 1874	D. April 19, 1906	
Annie Laurie Marsh Lorick	B. Feb. 2, 1898	D. Dec. 20, 1976	
Sherry Melton Lorick	B. Aug. 15, 1892	D. Mar. 5, 1936	World War I Veteran
Gordleap Wilhalf	B. 1805	D. 1870	
Elizabeth Kelly Wilhalf	B. 1824	D. Dec. 1888	
Eunice Almerty Wilhalf	B. Sept. 19, 1901	D. Sept. 21, 1902	
Mary Sinclair Daniels Faust	B. June 1, 1868	D. Aug. 13, 1919	
John H. Faust (1)	B. Sept. 17, 1889	D. Sept. 23, 1923	
Charles W. Daniels	B. July 22, 1881	D. May 16, 1900	
Charles H. Willhalf	B. July 1, 1846	D. Dec. 10, 1924	Confederate Veteran
George W. Daniels	B. 1844	D. Jan. 5, 1881	Confederate Veteran
Mary A. Willhalf Daniels	B. Sept. 1844	D. June 13, 1916	Wife of George W. Daniels
Michael Daniels	B. 1881	D. 1898	
John E. Wilhalf	B. May 6, 1849	D. Jan. 29, 1873	
James Wesley Daniels	B. May 25, 1861	D. April 25, 1950	
Robert Henry Daniels	B. Nov. 11, 1892	D. Oct. 2, 1949	Son of James Wesley and Eudora Dowie
Curtis L. Daniels	B. April 21, 1896	D. Mar. 13, 1966	Son of James Wesley and Eudora Dowie
Eudora Eulalie Daniels	B. Nov. 1, 1901	D. Aug. 1902	Unmarked