



Sandwiching in History Tour: Fraternal Cemetery, Oakland & Fraternal Historic Cemetery Park  
August 5, 2022

# Notable Individuals Buried in Fraternal Cemetery

(See map for grave locations)

*Biographical information from "A Brief History of Oakland-Fraternal Cemeteries" by Lakresha Diaz, copyright 2009.*

## **Gillam Family [Isaac Gillam, Jr. (1876-1953)]**

1

Isaac Gillam, Sr. and his wife, Cora A. (1846-1947) were both born into slavery. Isaac Gillam was a sergeant in the Arkansas Colored Infantry for the Union army during the Civil War. His kids were "outstanding educators," while he was very politically active, serving as an alderman for the Little Rock City Council, and then "in 1878 he was elected to the Arkansas State House of Representatives." "Isaac and Cora Gillam were active in the establishment of Shorter College in North Little Rock, where their daughter Cora Alice, Jr. (1874-1947) would later teach." Their son, Isaac Gillam, Jr. (1876-1953), studied at Howard, Yale, and the Universities of Chicago and Cincinnati, "served as principal of Gibbs High School for over fifty years," and helped "establish the Arkansas Negro Democratic Voters Association." Today, Little Rock's Gillam Park and Gillam School are named after this remarkable African American family. Note: Isaac Gillam is buried at the National Cemetery, **Isaac Gillam, Jr. is buried at Fraternal**, and Cora A. Gillam and Cora Alice, Jr. are buried at Oakland proper. For more, visit: [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net).

## **J.E. Henderson (1868-1928)**

2

J.E. Henderson "studied the jewelry business under Mr. J.V. Zimmerman" before opening his own store in 1896 on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. This made him the first African American jeweler in the state. Prior to his jewelry business, Henderson "was the champion pitcher in the Little Rock baseball cadet team three years and was recognized as the best pitcher of color in the state."

## **Carrie E. Jones (1871-1908), first wife of Scipio A. Jones**

3

Carrie Edwards was 25 when she married Scipio Jones in 1896. Jones was a rising Little Rock lawyer at that time. They had one child, Hazel, who died in young adulthood. Carrie died in 1908 at the age of 36. Scipio Jones went on to build an outstanding law career in which he often represented poor citizens and worked to correct injustices in the Arkansas penal system. His most significant case was the defense of 12 Black men arrested during the 1919 Elaine Massacre. Though they were initially sentenced to death, Jones defended them and earned their eventual release. Scipio Jones died in 1943 and is buried at haven of Rest Cemetery in Little Rock. For more on Scipio Jones, visit: [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net).

### Calvin Sanders (1827-1911)

4

Born into slavery, Calvin Sanders was brought to Arkansas at the age of 14 and sold to Mr. Sanders. During the Civil War, he served in “McCray’s brigade, Glenn’s regiment” “and took part in the battle of Helena and a few other engagements.” Shortly after gaining his freedom, he moved to Little Rock and became a successful businessman. He was elected to the city council in 1868 for Ward Two. A 1907 biography indicated he owned an entire block, in which he built 10 homes, and a 160-acre farm, in addition to the home he resided in with his family. His wife, Harriet Sanders, was also born into slavery and owned by Mr. Sanders.

### Dr. George Washington Hayman (ca. 1865-1943)

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Dr. George Washington Hayman was raised by his grandparents after the passing of his mother, a former slave. He paid for his education through school teaching and the sale of a bale of cotton he farmed on his grandparents’ patch. He attended Meharry Medical College, Philander Smith College, and Chicago Clinical School of Physicians and Surgeons. As a successful physician, he also wrote “interesting articles on hygiene and physiology.”

(Photo credit: Stroh’s, via FindaGrave.com)

### John E. Bush (1856-1916)

Bush Mausoleum 



Honorable “John Edward Bush, a chairman of the Republican Party in Arkansas, rose from poverty to national prominence when he co-founded the Mosaic Templars of America (MTA), an African-American fraternal organization of international scope, spanning twenty-six states and six foreign countries from the 1880s until the 1930s. Headquartered in Little Rock (Pulaski County), MTA became one of the largest and most successful Black-owned business enterprises in the nation and the world; it included an insurance company, a building and loan association, a hospital, a business college, a publishing house, and a nursing school. Living most of his early life in the downtown 9<sup>th</sup> Street district of Little Rock, Bush was widely acknowledged as one of the wealthiest Black men in Arkansas and a progenitor of the economic development and progress of Black American entrepreneurs. For more, visit: [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net).

(Photo source: Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System, via Encyclopedia of Arkansas)

### C.E. Bush (1886-1924)

Bush Mausoleum 



C.E. Bush, the son of Honorable John Edward Bush was the “editor and manager of the Mosaic Guide, the official organ of the Mosaic Templars of America.” “The *Indianapolis Freeman* says, editorially, that “the Mosaic Guide is the best paper coming that way from the State of Arkansas.” C.E. Bush had “the distinction and high honor of being the youngest editor of color in the United States of America,” as well as being the “youngest life member of the National Negro Business Men’s League.”

(Photo source: Woods, *Elias McSails*. Blue book of Little Rock and Argenta, Arkansas. 1907. p. 120. Accessed via Internet Archive)

### Chester W. Keatts (1854-1908)

7



Chester W. Keatts co-founded (along with John Bush) the “all-Black fraternal organization,” The Mosaic Templars of America, in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1882. After working “as a sharecropper for most of his early life,” he secured an education for himself after the Civil War. “Active in Republican politics from an early age, Keatts secured a number of federal patronage positions, including posts as a railway mail clerk with the postal service and as a U.S. deputy marshal for the Eastern District of Arkansas in 1876.” The Mosaic Templars was “a male benevolent institution” that helped “its members pay for the care of ill family members and the burial of their dead.” It soon “added auxiliary branches for women, a savings and loan association, and a training program for members interested in owning and operating small businesses.” “The society grew rapidly in Arkansas and developed small chapters throughout the South; by the 1920s, it claimed more than twenty-five thousand members.”

*(Photo source: Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System, via Encyclopedia of Arkansas)*

### Carrie Lena Fambro Still Shepperson (1872-1927)

8

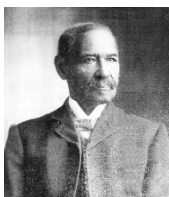


Carrie Still Shepperson was an African American English teacher at “the all-Negro M.W. Gibbs High School” in Little Rock in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. She was known for teaching the classics and for being a strict disciplinarian. The Shakespearean plays her students performed not only broadened their educational opportunities, but they also raised money for a library for African Americans in Little Rock. She taught her students the intricate patterns in both English grammar as well as those in fine needlework. Her impact on education in Little Rock and even in her own household stretched beyond the confines of Arkansas when her son, William Grant Still, became a celebrated composer and was known as “the Dean of Negro Composers.”

*(Photo credit: Richard Theilig, via FindaGrave.com)*

### Mifflin W. Gibbs (1823-1915)

9



“Mifflin Wistar Gibbs was a Little Rock (Pulaski County) businessman, a politician, and the first elected African American municipal judge in the United States.” As a young man in San Francisco, “he was a founder of the first Black newspaper west of the Mississippi River, *The Mirror of the Times* (1855).” Later, he moved to Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and “in 1866, he became the first Black man elected to the Victoria City Council.” Shortly after moving to Little Rock in 1871, he started a law partnership and was elected Little Rock “police judge from November 1874 to April 1875.” He served “for a decade as secretary of the state GOP central committee and was often a delegate to national conventions.” “In 1877, President Rutherford B. Hayes named Gibbs registrar of the Little Rock district land office; President Benjamin Harrison named him receiver of public monies in Little Rock in 1889. Finally, President William McKinley named him U.S. consul to Tamatave, Madagascar, in 1897.” “In 1903, Gibbs, at age eighty, commenced his most ambitious business effort, the creation of the Capital City Savings Bank, the second Black-owned bank in Arkansas. For more, visit: [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net).

*(Photo source: Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System, via Encyclopedia of Arkansas)*

### Dr. John Marshall Robinson (1879-1970)

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“John Marshall Robinson was a prominent physician, civic leader, and co-founder and president of the Arkansas Negro Democratic Association (ANDA). As a physician, Robinson performed pioneering medical surgery and was involved with a number of medical institutions and organizations in Little Rock (Pulaski County). As a politician, Robinson was the main voice in the state demanding equal Black participation in the Arkansas Democratic Party between 1928 and 1952.” For more, visit:

[www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net).

*(Photo source: UALR Center for Arkansas History and Culture, via Encyclopedia of Arkansas)*

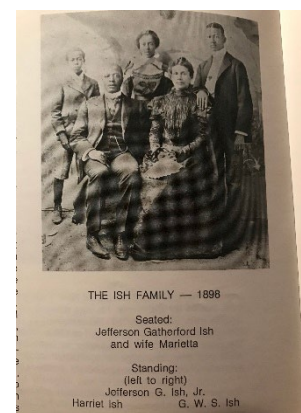
### Jefferson G. Ish (1849-1943) and Marietta G. Ish (1850-1920)

11



Jefferson G. Ish and his wife M.G. Ish were both prominent African American educators in Little Rock. An 1898 biography states of Jefferson G. Ish, “Much of the educational development of this city is due to his great ability and untiring efforts.” Of Mrs. M.G. Ish it is said that “the woman who has the reputation of being one of the most experienced and successful primary teachers in the state is known to be Mrs. Ish.”

*(Photo credits: J.G. Ish from Richard Theilig, Ish Family from Tony Curtis, both via FindaGrave.com)*



### Dr. Raymond James Meaddough (born 1869)

12

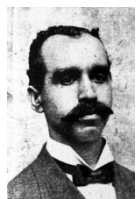


Dr. R.J. Meaddough, D.D.S., was an early African American dentist in Little Rock, operating his practice at “dental parlors on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Gaines Streets” in the early 1900s. Shortly after high school, he was a “cigar maker for eight years in some of the best factories in the Southeast, and for several years he conducted a cigar factory and confectionery of his own” in Savannah, Georgia, “where he did a retail and wholesale business in cigars. Thus he accumulated means to pay his expenses at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee; from which he was graduated in dentistry, 1901.”

*(Photo source: Woods, Elias McSails. Blue book of Little Rock and Argenta, Arkansas. 1907. p. 60. Accessed via Internet Archive)*

### Dr. J.G. Thornton (1879-1957)

13



J.G. Thornton was an early African American doctor. He graduated from Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee in 1902 before coming to Little Rock. He was a “physician to Shorter College” and “medical director to the People’s Mutual Aid Association and Insurance Company.”

*(Photo credit: Kimberly, via FindaGrave.com)*

### **D.B. Gaines (born 1863)**

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Rev. D.B. Gaines graduated from Philander Smith College in 1891. He worked as assistant principal of the Little Rock Union High School and pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church before attending Medical School at Meharry Medical College, graduating in 1896. He became pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church again. He is also the author of "Racial Possibilities."

### **Andrew Henry Hill (1870-1924)**

15



Rev. Andrew Henry Hill attended Wilberforce University, graduating in 1901. He served as president of Shorter College. He was also licensed to preach at seventeen.  
*(Photo credit: SPMcD, via FindaGrave.com)*

### **John Arthur Hibbler (1878-1962)**

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John Arthur Hibbler was an early African American professor at Arkansas Baptist College. He graduated from the same college himself in 1905. He also served as principal of Biscoe High School and "deputy examiner of teachers for Prairie County."  
*(Photo credit: David M. Habben, via FindaGrave.com)*

### **Catherine Lawson (1892-1905)**

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Catherine Lawson, a young African American hero, was killed by a streetcar while saving the life of a child she was caring for. In a June 2, 1905 *Arkansas Gazette* article, a collection is requested to build a monument in her honor at Fraternal Cemetery. The inscription of this impressive monument reads: "Erected by white people in memory of Catherine Lawson who sacrificed her life at the age of 13 years saving the life of a white child from being killed by a street car in this city May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1905."



# Map of Graves of Notable Individuals

