

## Women in Lexington's African American community were its "Safety Net" in the late 18<sup>th</sup> through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### WOMEN OF THE COLORED ORPHAN HOME:

Twenty-four women organized the Colored Orphan Home in 1892. They provided shelter and education until age 16 for boys under nine and girls under ten. A home was purchased in 1894. The facility closed in 1988.

#### Stop #1: Charlotte Pogue (Section B, Row 2)

Matron at the Colored Orphan Home.

Charlotte's association with the Colored Orphan Home was noted in her obituary and documented in the history of the home written by Dr. Lauretta Byers. Charlotte first married Harvey H. Dowery about 1841 and then married Milton Pogue in 1881. The couple were first matron and superintendent of the Home from 1894 to 1900.

*Byers (1995)*

*Giles (2009) p. 100*



#### Stop #2: Mary Gillis (Section B, Row 6)

Founder of the Colored Orphan Home.

Mary's connection to the Home was listed in the Articles of Incorporation and found in the written history by Dr. Lauretta Byers. Mary was a

seamstress. Her husband, John, was an upholsterer. They lived at 363 Walnut Street, now Martin Luther King Blvd. Mary was a 32-year member of First African Baptist Church, as documented in their church history. Her marker has been broken and repaired. Gillis's marker stands to the right of her niece, Sarah Warfield, with whom she was living when she died.

*Byers (1995)*

*Giles (2009) p.99*



#### Stop #6: Ella (Henderson) Walker (Section F, Row 4)

Sewing instructor at the Colored Orphan Home; Assistant Matron and millinery instructor at Kentucky Normal and Industrial Institute (now Kentucky State University).



Ella graduated from State University, Louisville KY in 1883. She married Rev. Hannibal Silvester Henderson, minister of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in 1885. He was also principal of the Fourth Street Colored Public School where Ella taught. They were parents of Hannibal, Jr. and Lucille. Rev. Henderson died in 1887; their son also died in

1887, three months after birth. Lucille, their daughter was first married to Robert Harrel (who is buried in the cemetery) and then to Carl Bass of Chicago IL.

Ella married Jephthah Walker in 1902. Ella's grave marker is to the left of Rev. Henderson's marker. The marker of their infant son is in the row behind.

*Giles (2009) p.103*

#### Stop #7: Jane Saunders (Section F, Row 5)

A rubbing of Saunders's marker revealed her association with the Home as founding and incorporating member. Her involvement was documented in the Articles of Incorporation filed in 1892.

*Byers (1995)*

*Giles (2009) p.100*



#### Stop #9: Mattie Byrd (Section E, Row 6)

Wife of Joseph Byrd (USCT) - double marker (pillow shaped)

Mattie and Joseph Byrd married in 1881. Their two children did not survive them. Mattie was a seamstress who served in 1902 on the Board of Managers for the Colored Orphan Home. She was a member of St. Paul AME Church and the St. Venus Temple, Sister of the Mysterious Ten, women's affiliate of the United Brothers of Friendship.

*Giles (2009) p.100*



#### Stop #12: E. Birdie Taylor (Section C, Row 1)

E. Birdie (not sure if the 'E' means Ellen, Eliza, or Elizabeth) spent most of her career teaching at Maddoxtown and Warrenton rural schools. She served as president of the Colored Teachers Institute of Fayette County in 1908. She was appointed Supervisor of Fayette County Schools for African Americans in 1913, a position she held for seven years. Around 1920, Taylor was hired as State Supervisor for rural schools in 60 Eastern Kentucky counties. At one time she served as president of the Colored Orphan Home. She was married to Leon Wickliffe Taylor. They had one son.

*Giles (2009) p. 108*



### WOMEN IN THOROUGHBRED RACING

#### Stop #3: Elanora Lewis (Section A, Row 1)

Mother of jockey Oliver Lewis

Elanora was born in Woodford County and died of a paralytic stroke in her home at 189 Spring Street in



Lexington. She was 56; employed as a domestic servant (information found on her death certificate #149). She was identified as mother of Oliver Lewis on his death certificate. Oliver Lewis won the first Kentucky Derby on Aristides in 1875.

*Giles (2009) p.103*

#### Stop #10: Clara Perry (Section D, Row 8)

Wife of Abraham Perry and grandmother of Julia Perry

Clara Taylor and Abraham Perry married in 1880. They were parents of Abraham M. and Lucie Perry. Their granddaughters became talented musicians. Amanda Perry was buried in the cemetery in 1940 following her death in a train accident in Ohio. She was older sister to Julia Perry who became a national and internationally known composer and conductor.

*Archive Panels - Perry Family and Abraham Perry*



### WOMEN AND POLITICS

#### Stop #5: Sarah Gist (Section A, Row 3)

The great scandal of 1893 occurred when Madeline Pollard sued and won a judgement against William Campbell Preston Breckinridge for breach of promise to marry. Breckinridge agreed that Pollard had been his mistress and a "house of assignment" operated by Sarah Gist was one location where they met. Gist was among the witnesses providing testimony in the trial. The Gist family were originally enslaved by descendants of Christopher Gist a pioneer, surveyor, and friend of George Washington.



#### Stop #8: Margaret Harlan (Section E, Row 14)

Wife and daughters of Robert Harlan

Margaret Sproule married Robert Harlan in 1840. Their marriage certificate indicated they were both Free

Blacks. Robert Harlan was the half-brother of John Marshall Harlan, the "Great Dissenter" of the U.S. Supreme Court. Reportedly, Margaret gave birth to five children. The two whose names appear on this marker may have been their first children. Julia F. died in 1843 at the age of two and Julia died in 1849 at the age of three. Margaret died in 1850. Robert, the husband and father, made a fortune during the California Gold Rush. When he returned to Kentucky, he may have learned of the deaths. Robert Harlan relocated with the remaining children to Ohio and then to Europe where he engaged in horse racing. He moved

back to Ohio following the Civil War where he was active in Republican politics. This marker was moved here from its original location.

Robert Harlan's story is highlighted in the book *The Great Dissenter: The Story of John Marshall Harlan, America's Judicial Hero* by Peter S. Canellos (Simon and Schuster, 2021)

**Stop #11: Emma Bailey (Section D, Row 8)**

Daughter of Laura "Dolly" Johnson



Laura "Dolly" Johnson was hired as the White House Chef during the Benjamin Harrison presidency from 1889 to 1893. She continued to work in the White House for the first few months after Grover Cleveland was elected for a second term. He preferred a French cook and fired Johnson. She refused to go back when asked to return. Johnson returned to Kentucky where she met Ed Dandridge of Louisville. They married in 1894. By 1906, the couple had relocated to Lexington where they opened several restaurants: 1906 on South Limestone Street, 1910 White House Cafe on East Main Street, and 1912 South Upper. While operating the restaurants, she and Ed (who was also a Chef) catered.

"Dolly" Johnson's story was featured in a book by Adrian Miller, *The President's Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of African Americans Who Have Fed Our First Families from Washington to the Obamas*. 2017

**WOMEN AND THE ARTS**

**Stop #4: Ella Gordon (Section A, Row 5)**

Ella was the daughter of Maria and John Burton. Her mother's grave marker is to the right. We learned of her parents through conversation with Mrs. Marcia Wilson, descendant of Ann Scott and John Burton. Scott and Burton were a sister and brother of Matilda Burton Dunbar. Ella was a first cousin of the African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar.



**Sources**

- Byers, Loretta. 1995. *Lexington's Colored Orphan Industrial Home: Building for the Future*, Canellos, Peter S. 2021. *The Great Dissenter: The Story of John Marshall Harlan, America's Judicial Hero*. Simon and Schuster.
- Giles, Yvonne. 2009. *Stilled Voices Yet Speak*.
- Miller, Adrian. 2017. *The President's Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of African Americans Who Have Fed Our First Families from Washington to the Obamas*.

**OUR STORY:** This is the earliest recorded cemetery in Lexington to be organized, owned, and managed by African Americans. It began in 1869 and burials continued until 1976. The people here were important leaders in Lexington. Like many private cemeteries it was not endowed, and with the death of its founding members in Union Benevolent Society No. 2 (from which the cemetery gets its name) the cemetery became urban wasteland and was declared abandoned on April 17, 1973. City government claimed ownership and surveyed graves in the cemetery in 1973 in anticipation of planned development; the revelation of over 5000 sites precluded that use. In March 1979, the Rev. H. Greene organized a nonprofit group as African Cemetery No. 2, Inc. to reclaim the landscape. The cemetery was cleaned and restored in 1980 and African Cemetery No. 2, Inc. was deeded the property in May 1981. The nonprofit was reorganized in 1995 and restoration, historic preservation, and cultural activities have continued since. The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. It is the home of Lexington's longest running Juneteenth Celebration.

Contributions for ongoing maintenance and continued restoration are welcomed.  
 African Cemetery No. 2, Inc. is a tax-exempt non profit  
 501 (c)(13) corporation

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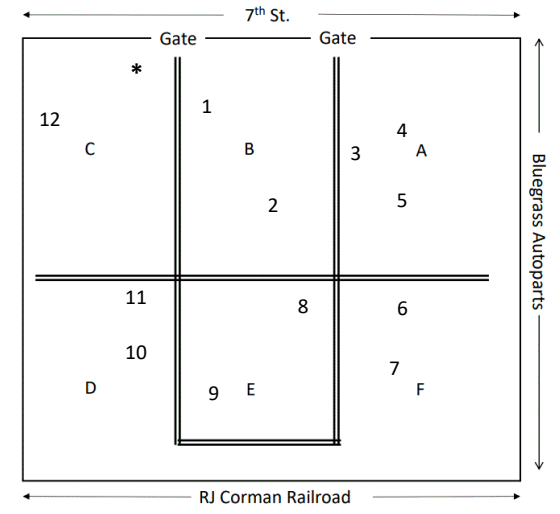
Brochure Design by Y. Giles and M.S. Coyne  
 This is a 1,000-step Tour

Photo Credits - M.S. Coyne

# Notable Women of African Cemetery No. 2

## Self-Guided Walking Tour

(Tours Start at the Highway Marker\*)



Rows are numbered left to right as you face 7th St.