

# Historic Hasley

SECRETS FROM THE GRAVE




Ouachita Parish  
Public Library




# Hasley Cemetery

Lemuel and Phinetta Newman set aside a portion of their property to be used as a cemetery for family and friends. Later when Phinetta and her second husband David Hasley donated the land to a local church, the cemetery was opened to residents of the towns of Trenton and Cottonport. The land was then purchased by Thomas McGuire in 1879, and was donated again in 1917 by his son Herman McGuire to the City of West Monroe. Today, Hasley Cemetery is maintained by a virtual trust and governed by the Board of Aldermen.


**I** **Godwin Cotton "G.C." Moore**  
July 13, 1859 - October 6, 1935

 Marker was replaced with modern granite  
G.C. Moore operated a ferry from Natchitoches Street across the Ouachita River. He later owned numerous saloons. The Corner Saloon's building still stands on Commerce Street.


**L** **William G. Head**  
September 1848 - July 29, 1930

 Unmarked, probably near family  
Born an enslaved person in the Head household, William "Billy" Head attended J.P. Crosley as a young teenager during the Civil War. After emancipation, he learned to read and write, and became an educator and minister. He helped establish many schools and churches, including the Gum Springs Baptist Association and the church that is now Trenton Missionary Baptist Church. In 1909, Head served as an elder for the Louisiana Baptist State Convention. He was the first Black man to be elected to the Ouachita Parish School Board.


**M** **Morris Henry Carroll**  
February 23, 1907 - September 19, 1979




 Modern four-person granite mausoleum  
A respected educator and Civil Rights advocate, Morris Henry Carroll was principal of Carroll High School, formerly known as Monroe Colored High School, which was built and named in honor of his grandfather Henry C. Carroll. Henry was a skilled boat caulker during the steamboat era. After purchasing land on the Ouachita River, Henry helped organize Trenton Baptist Church and develop the Trenton Community. Morris inherited his grandfather's work ethic and as a boy he delivered milk for his uncle's dairy. He attended Southern University, where he was named an All-American fullback.

**J** **Julia Caroline Wossman**  
Aug 4, 1879 - Feb 24, 1963

 Marble  
Julia Wossman began teaching in Monroe City Schools in 1898 and was principal of Barkdull Faulk School from 1921 until her retirement in 1949. She was active in several community organizations, including the Red Cross, Monroe Recreation Board, Business Professional Women's Club, the Ouachita Tuberculosis and Public Health Association and the Ouachita Parish Detention Home. In 1965, Wossman High School was named in her memory.

**K** **Isaac "Ike" Hamilton**  
July 9, 1911 - May 1, 1997

 Marble pillowtop marker  
Ike Hamilton was a rodeo clown, auctioneer and community leader. One of his first jobs was selling newspapers on horseback in West Monroe. He began rodeo clowning as a teenager, but broke his leg in five places at a July 4, 1936 rodeo. Hamilton later became an auctioneer. He is a member of the Auctioneer Hall of Fame and the National Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame. He was devoted to his wife Shirley and their three children. He helped found ARCO and the G. B. Cooley School. The Ike Hamilton Exposition Center is named for him.

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**A** **Phinetta Houton Wooten Newman Hasley 1800 - July 14, 1878**



Old high fire brick mausoleum with marble marker

Twice widowed with no children, Phinetta Hasley was a philanthropist who gave away much of her land and money at her death. She used her wealth to fund the building of churches in the area, including First Baptist Church in Monroe. She gave the land for the original Hasley Cemetery.

**B** **Joseph Perry “J.P.” Crosley  
October 9, 1815 - December 18, 1876**



Marble tower with granite base

Captain Joseph Perry Crosley married Martha Elizabeth Head in 1845 and they came to Ouachita Parish in 1858. Before the Civil War, Crosley had a business on Trenton. Once he returned, he became a planter. He is buried in a fenced family plot with his wife and 8 children. His land stretched from what is now the old golf course down to Lazarre Point. Crosley School is named for his family.

**C** **Sally and Jim May**



**Sally:** Cast concrete with pressed letters, originally limewashed white



**Jim: 1853 – May 1928** Unmarked, probably near family

Jim May worked on steamboats as a captain of the watch. He was responsible for stowing cargo and mooring and unmooring the steamboat. He was also a hunting guide and an assistant sexton for Hasley Cemetery. Jim’s grave is not marked but is probably next to that of his wife. Little is known about Sally other than she was listed as a survivor and the mother of 8 children in Jim’s obituary.

**D** **Anthony Genever “A.G.” Facen  
August 20, 1898 - June 21, 1991**



US Army military marker mounted on granite slab

A. G. Facen served in the army during World War I, was a teacher, principal at Myles High School, agricultural extension agent and Civil Rights activist who fought for racial equality in Ouachita Parish. He helped organize the Black Citizens council in 1969 and lobbied for the redistricting of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury for better representation of the black community. He was integral in securing equal pay for all teachers.

**E** **Elias Burch “E.B.” Cryer  
April 19, 1844 - January 31, 1910**



Marker was replaced in the 1960s with granite

Cryer was an owner and operator of steamboats on the Ouachita River and its tributaries. Cryer won a steamboat race from Monroe to Bayou Bartholomew, a distance of 58 miles by river. Cryer beat his rival by 35 minutes because of his ability to handle the crooks and bends of the bayou. He also owned wharf boats at Trenton and Monroe. His last steamboat was the Annie Lee on Bayou Macon. He is buried with Masonic honors.

**F** **Lillian Herron Williamson  
September 27, 1893 - July 23, 1939**



Marble

Lillian Williamson was a librarian at the Ouachita Parish Public Library and Northeast Junior College. She served as president of the Louisiana Library Association. She held degrees from both LSU and Louisiana Tech, and was taking graduate courses at LSU and working in their library when she died. She and her husband, Frederick William Williamson, were working on a book, Eastern Louisiana, at the time of her death. Williamson dedicated the book in her memory.

**G** **Joseph and William Mason**

**Joseph: May 12, 1833 - July 15, 1836**

**William: January 18, 1765 - November 14, 1836**



Marble

Little is known about the father and son, except that these are the oldest marked graves in Hasley Cemetery. Joseph died in 1836 at only three years of age, and his father William died just a few months later.

**H** **Jethro Moore  
June 1825 - July 31, 1912**



Italian marble

Jethro Moore was Trenton’s first pharmacist. The great fire of 1873 probably started in his drug store. He also served as mayor of Trenton. Jethro was the uncle of G.C. Moore.



= WHAT SHOULD YOU BE LOOKING FOR



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[oplib.org/hasley](http://oplib.org/hasley)



Funding for Rebirth PL grants has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and administered by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan. Additional funding is provided by the Union Pacific Foundation.

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