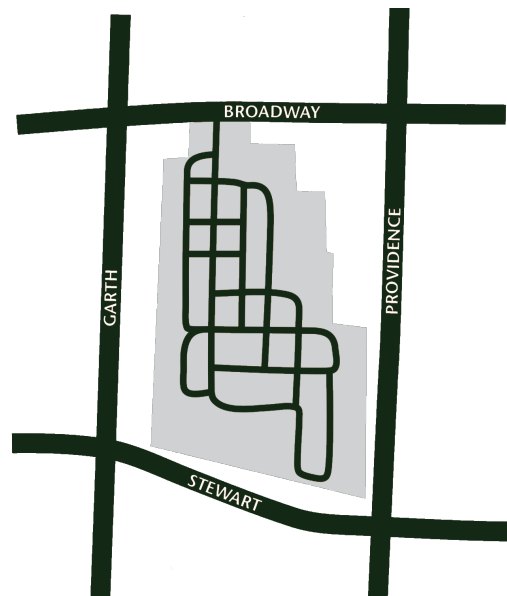


Historic Gravesites

- 1 Jane Froman, vocalist and entertainer
- 2 William Orear, Revolutionary War Soldier
- 3 Samuel Elgin, Revolutionary War Soldier
- 4 James S. Rollins, University of Missouri
- 5 Nifongs and Lenoirs, pioneer families founder
- 6 James L. Stephens, Stephens Collegeer
- 7 Odon and David Guitar, Missouri militia
- 8 J.W. "Blind" Boone, ragtime musician
- 9 Abraham J. Williams, third Missouri governor
- 10 Victor Barth, early merchant
- 11 William F. Switzer, editor and historian
- 12 Moss Prewitt, first banker
- 13 U.S. Colored Infantry
- 14 R.B. Price, banker and philanthropist
- 15 Mary Jane Todd, earliest grave, 1823
- 16 Ann Hawkins Gentry, pioneer and second female U.S. postmistress
- 17 David Gordon, major landowner
- 18 Luella St. Clair Moss, educator and president of Christian College
- 19 Saul and Gladys Weinberg, archaeologists and museum founders
- 20 Walter Williams, founder of journalism school and MU president



Columbia Cemetery
30 E. Broadway
Columbia, Missouri 65203

(573) 449-6320
columbiacemetery@gmail.com
Open from dawn to dusk

Visit us online at
www.columbiacemetery.net
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The Friends of the Historic Columbia Cemetery was established as a not for profit group to promote public interest in the cemetery's many contributions and close ties to the Columbia community. To support the conservation, preservation and enhancement of Columbia Cemetery, please join The Friends.

COLUMBIA CEMETERY

COLUMBIA CEMETERY



The monuments
are a roll call of
Boone County's
pioneer and
influential
families.

History

Columbia Cemetery has been in use since 1820, when six town lots in the southwestern corner were set aside for common burying ground. Nine years later, on March 17, 1829, Daniel P. Wilcox and his wife, Elizabeth, deeded the lots to the trustees of the Corporation of Columbia. The entrance to this cemetery was on Locust Street with gates that now front the historic Maplewood House, built by Slater and Margaret Lenoir in 1877 and now a historic site in Nifong Park.

Under the city's care, the cemetery fell into disrepair. Fences were down, lanes were impassable and trees were overgrown. The neglect and haphazard burial practices led the Missouri General Assembly to incorporate the Columbia Cemetery Association on Feb. 28, 1853. The Act of Incorporation placed the old cemetery in the hands of seven trustees.

By Oct. 22, 1858, the new association had bought land west of the graveyard and was laying out plots, walks and roadways. The sale of lots began on Nov. 19, 1858. The following year, the trustees bought land to provide an entrance from Broadway. In 1873, another purchase to the south and east brought the size of the cemetery to 24 acres, and the city council of Columbia officially conveyed the original six lots to the association.

Subsequent land transactions increased the size of the cemetery to 34 acres. A limestone receiving vault was added in 1877 for storing bodies if they could not be buried immediately, as was sometimes the case in the winter when the ground was frozen. The vault house still stands in the middle of the cemetery near Prewitt and Todd streets. The many sizes, shapes and symbols of the old markers - from very grand to very simple - give a sense of dignity and peace.



Biographies

Dr. Frank G. (1867-1954) and Lavinia Lenoir Nifong (1868-1959)

St. Louis surgeon Frank G. Nifong married Lavinia Lenoir in 1900. In 1905 they moved to Maplewood Home, built in 1877 on a 427-acre farmstead by Lavinia's parents, Slater and Margaret Lenoir. The Nifongs' benevolence enabled construction of Lenoir retirement community and an addition to the county hospital. A city park and a boulevard also bear the Nifong name. The Maplewood Home in south Columbia is operated as a local historic site and tourist attraction.

Jane Froman, 1907-1980

A graduate of Christian (now Columbia) College, Froman rose to international fame as a singer and stage performer in the 1930s and '40s. While traveling to Europe on a 1943 USO tour, Froman's plane crashed and she suffered extensive injuries. Her courageous recovery was chronicled in the film "With a Song in My Heart."

J.W. "Blind" Boone, 1864-1927

Boone overcame the barriers of race and obstacles of blindness to become an internationally famous concert pianist. His ragtime compositions provided a direct link between African American plantation songs and ragtime. The Blind Boone Memorial Foundation placed a marker at Boone's gravesite in 1971.

Moss Prewitt, 1799-1871

Moss Prewitt opened Boone County's first banking firm in 1856. He joined other area merchants to form the Boone County Saving Association (later Boone County National Bank) in 1864. He was one of the original trustees of the Columbia Cemetery Association.

Odon Guitar (1825-1908) and David Guitar (1827-1912)

A soldier, politician, lawyer and supporter of the University of Missouri, Odon Guitar commanded the Union forces of the Ninth Calvary of the Missouri State Militia during the Civil War and was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. His younger brother, David, served under Gen. Sterling Price during the Mexican War and later as a captain in the Enrolled Missouri State Militia during the Civil War.

William Orear (1761-1839) and Samuel Elgin (1758-1844)

Two Revolutionary War veterans are buried in Columbia Cemetery. William Orear served in the Virginia Militia in 1777 and participated in the campaign against Cornwallis at Williamsburg. Samuel Elgin served in the Maryland Militia in 1776 and 1777 and served with George Washington at York Island, now known as Manhattan. The Columbia Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution marked both graves with a marble headstone, Orear in 1952 and Elgin in 2006.

Burial or Cremation Options

- **Full Grave Burial**
- **Cremation Burial**
- **Columbarium**

Allow yourself and your loved ones peace of mind in knowing your afterlife plans are taken care of ahead of time.

Full Grave Burials are broken up into tiers, dependent on location and price. **Cremation Burials** are smaller, 4ft x 4ft plots ground in which you can bury an urn. **Columbariums** are above-ground spaces for urns to be stored - single and double niches available.

**For more information, please contact the
Columbia Cemetery office:**

**(573) 449-6320
columbiacemetery@gmail.com**



U.S. Colored Infantry

Over forty members of the United States Colored Infantry are interred at Columbia Cemetery. After the war, members of the 62nd and 65th Colored Infantry Regiment, composed primarily of uneducated ex-slaves from Missouri, pooled \$6,400 to establish Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City, which later became Lincoln University. Classes for free black students began in 1866. In 1890, Lincoln Institute became Missouri's black land-grant institution.