

# Stones and Stories

BY BETSY SMITH  
EDITOR

The Cynthiana-Harrison County Public Library hosted a headstone cleaning event at the Old Cemetery on June 29 organized by library programmer Brianna Mott.

Before heading down Main Street to the cemetery, Mott gave participants a quick rundown of the morning's activities, noting that grave markers are often weathered and decayed and as such require special care.

She instructed everyone to inspect a stone's condition before doing anything. If it's too deteriorated, tilting or loose then hands off.

After getting quick step by step instructions on the headstone cleaning process, the group meandered to the cemetery where Roger Slade awaited.

Slade professes a lifelong love of the cemetery and for several years has been offering a fascinating History and Headstones walking tour there.

Slade estimates about 1,000 people lie buried there, though only about 200 stones remain.

Interestingly, he said the Old Cemetery can also rightfully be called a graveyard. The term "graveyard" applies only to church burial grounds, but there once was a church in the oldest part of the cemetery.

Slade said the current four-acre cemetery evolved over time. Robert Harrison donated the original land for a burial ground in 1793—about an acre. Later another acre was bought by the city.



Betsy Smith

**Roger Slade provides a history lesson on the Old Cemetery for participants in the library's Stones and Stories event June 29.**

Shortly before the Civil War, Slade said the town acquired the front two acres closest to Main Street.

At the time, Main Street lay at the same level as the cemetery. A horseshoe carriage way running east to west was added as well as a wrought iron fence. (The fence, in disrepair, provided precious scrap metal during World War II.)

New burial plots sold for \$5, Slade said, and as many people as would fit could be buried in one.

With the establishment of Battle Grove Cemetery, however, people abandoned the Old Cemetery in

droves. Many dug up loved ones and reinterred them in the new cemetery. Slade said the city had to ask people to please fill the graves in after exhuming a body.

Margaret Goudy's is the earliest stone with a legible marker. One of Cynthiana's most famously tragic figures, she died Oct. 6, 1814. The young woman's reputation had been besmirched by town gossips until it was revealed—too late—that not pregnancy but a large tumor swelled her abdomen.

Slade highlighted several stones, including that of Revolutionary War sol-



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**Briella Martinez, left, rinses the stone of W.H. Adair while Becky Havens works with a brush to get in the crevices. Adair was an Oddfellow, and his stone includes many symbols important to the organization.**



Betsy Smith

**Isaac Dailey uses a soft brush to gently clean a headstone in the Old Cemetery.**

dier Joseph Stephens and Confederate soldier Capt. W.S. Rogers.

He also noted the many

cholera victims buried there, including a mother buried with her baby in her arms and her three-

year old next to her. Slade said so many people died here during the cholera epidemic it created a population dip in what had been a robustly growing community.

One of the more interesting stones is the well-preserved marker of W.H. Adair. A member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Adair's headstone features symbols sacred to his fraternity: three links of a chain symbolizing friendship, truth and love; a hand with a heart for charitable giving; the all-seeing eye of God; a beehive for hard work; shepherds' canes for the tribes of Israel and a tent for the transitory nature of life.

Slade said the monuments in the Old Cemetery are Vermont marble, which is soft and easily scratched. The group was cautioned to be extremely gentle in cleaning the stones.

In groups of two's and three's, participants spread out across the cemetery to select a monument to clean. The process involved presoaking with water, removing any loose detritus with a soft brush, applying a solution of Dawn dish soap and water and then scrubbing delicately. A biological solution that works over time could also be applied.

Ideally, Slade said the stones should be cleaned every two years.

While only a fraction of the headstones got a little TLC that day, the ones that did looked renewed, their mossy green coating gone and their inscriptions once again readable.

## CICADAS

FROM PAGE B2

grasshoppers, so the colonists assumed that the cicadas were the same thing. The confusion over the name persists today.

There are two types of cicadas: periodical cicadas that emerge every 13 or 17 years; and annual cicadas that emerge every two to five years. The cycles of emergence are very site specific, so there is no universal emergence.

Annual cicadas first appear in mid-summer and are about two inches long. They are green to black once they emerge from their shell. The 13 and 17-year cicadas are orange to black. You may have seen their shells securely attached to trees; they look like empty brown shrimp shells.

The cicada makes its

presence known by its high-pitched song. The song of the male cicada starts out as an even vibration and crescendos into a


shrill screaming match between hundreds of insects ... and then the quiet hum is back ...and

then it begins again. It's exciting to listen to.

The bad news is that cicadas can cause damage

to young trees when we see mass emergence years associated with the 13 and 17-year broods. The

female cicada makes slits in young, terminal branches of trees where she will deposit her eggs.



## LEGAL NOTICE


PUBLIC NOTICE

Budget hearing regarding proposed use of Municipal Road Aid Funds

A public hearing will be held by the City of Cynthiana, Kentucky, at 308 Webster Avenue, Harrison County Board of Education Meeting Room at 5:15 p.m. July 21, 2026 for the purpose of obtaining citizens comments regarding the possible uses of the Municipal Road Aid (MRA) Funds for fiscal year July 1, 2026– June 30, 2027

	Municipal Road Aid	Local Government Economic Assistance
Balance Carried Forward	178,977	0
Anticipated Receipts	100,000	0
Anticipated Interest Income	60	0
Total Resources Available for Appropriation	279,037	0

All interested persons in the City of Cynthiana, Kentucky are invited to the hearing to submit oral or written comments on possible uses of the MRA funds. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing but wish to submit comments, should call the Office of the Mayor at 234-7153 by July 20, 2026 so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments.



## LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISED JULY 2026

THE FOLLOWING FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENTS WERE FILED IN THE MONTH OF JUNE 2026. ALL CREDITORS MUST FILE THEIR CLAIMS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF APPOINTMENT PER KRS 395.100.

DECEDENT/MINOR	FIDUCIARY/GUARDIAN	ATTORNEY	DATE APPOINTED
NATHANIEL LEE REED	MONICA S REED 305 W MILL ST CYNTHIANA KY ERIC REED 305 W MILL ST CYNTHIANA KY	SAM ARNOLD 109 JOE B HALL CT CYNTHIANA KY	6/1/26
MARY R MUNTZ	DAVID ANDREW MUNTZ 217 DUDLEY CT RICHMOND KY 40475 BRADLEY SCOTT MUNTZ 113 ELM ST PARIS KY 40361	BRADLEY V 105 W PIKE ST CYNTHIANA KY	6/1/26
RICHARD PALMER DYCUS, JR	SUSAN MARTIN DYCUS 310 E PLEASANT ST CYNTHIANA KY	JOHN LAIR 115 E PIKE ST CYNTHIANA KY	6/1/26
LESLIE CLARKE CLIFFORD	DWIGHT KEITH CLIFFORD 1478 KY HWY 1842 E CYNTHIANA KY	BRADLEY VAUGHN 105 W PIKE ST CYNTHIANA KY	6/8/26
BARBARA JO WACHTER FLORENCE	MICHAEL WACHTER 1208 OLD LAIR RD CYNTHIANA KY	KELLI MULBERRY 122 E PIKE ST CYNTHIANA KY	6/15/26
BEATRICE F WIGLESWORTH	KEVIN WIGLESWORTH 216 MILLER ST CYNTHIANA KY	JESSE MELCHER PO BOX 345 MT OLIVET KY 41064	6/15/26
JANICE C JUDY	PETER BRACKNEY 2402 GREATSTONE PT LEXINGTON KY 40504	PETER BRACKNEY 2402 GREATSTONE PT LEXINGTON KY 40504	6/22/26
KRISTI SUE JACOBS	JOHN RANDAL JACOBS 59 CULPEPPER DR CYNTHIANA KY	JOHN LAIR 115 E PIKE ST CYNTHIANA KY	6/22/26
JACKIE NEAL CHEEK	RODNEY NEAL CHEEK 1897 ARBOR STATION WAY LEXINGTON KY 40511	SAM ARNOLD 109 JOE B HALL CT CYNTHIANA KY	6/29/26

RACHEL H NORTH CUTT,  
HARRISON CO. CIRCUIT CLERK



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