

A publication of
**The City of Newnan, Main Street Newnan, and
 Coweta County Convention and Visitors Bureau**

Oak Hill Cemetery
 96 Jefferson Street - Newnan, Georgia



Oak Hill Cemetery

Newnan, Georgia

Walking Guide

Oak Hill Cemetery is a place to remember. Dating to 1833, when Coweta county was still welcoming pioneer families, **Oak Hill** tells Newnan's story from the very beginning. In elegant epitaphs, Victorian statuary, box tombs from the early days and every style of marker from 1833 to the present. **Oak Hill** gives visitors deep insight into Newnan's past and present. Even the picturesque landscaping is memorable. Whether **Oak Hill** is a part of your own family's story or you are a first-time visitor, you will leave with memories that are your very own.



Oak Hill was chosen as the name for the cemetery in a contest by a local newspaper in 1887

Bigby-Parrott Section 19-A ... Row 3



Judge John S. Bigby son of pioneer settlers in the Raymond community, was active in business, political, and agricultural areas. He and his son-in-law Charles C. Parrott, President of Newnan National Bank, won awards for prize cattle. The enclosed lot has an identifying threshold at the entrance. Two massive columns with Ionic scrolls, an obelisk topped with an urn, symbolizing immortality, a gazebo with eight columns and an Corinthian entablature, further enhance this impressive plot near the entrance to the cemetery.

PRESBYTERIAN SECTION

Sections 17 and 18

The section on the south side of Jefferson Street is the cemetery for the Newnan First Presbyterian Church. The church had been established in 1828 on Bullsboro and was then relocated to the lot across the street facing Jackson Street in 1834.

Atkinson

Section 18-A ... Row 3

William Yates Atkinson was elected Governor and served two terms from 1894 to 1898. He was the first of two Governors of Georgia from Newnan. A proponent of education, he helped establish the first women's college in Milledgeville. Atkinson Hall there is named for him. His family marker has a wreath at the top with a shaped capital.



Stacy

Section 17 ... Row 5

An imposing monument marking the grave of **Major Meredith H. Kendrick** was formally dedicated in 1871. It is a tall obelisk with a crown encircling the column, a sword pointing downward, symbolizing death in battle, torches on all four corners, and topped with an urn draped with a floral wreath. A member of the Newnan Guards, he was killed in the battle of Kennesaw Mountain in 1864. His battle flag has been preserved and is displayed in the Male Academy Museum.



Thompson

Section 18-A ... Row 3

Charles Longino Thompson was confined to a wheelchair due to an accident at an early age. A progressive and useful citizen and an advocate of education, he was instrumental in obtaining a donation from Andrew Carnige to build a library in Newnan. The library was dedicated in 1904. The lilies on the family markers symbolize peace.



CONFEDERATE SECTION Section 21

In 1868 the Ladies Memorial Association was instrumental in marking the graves of those who died during the Civil War here in Newnan. Later the United Daughters of the Confederacy maintained the lots and new markers were made available in 1950 by U.S. Representative Sid Camp. 269 confederate soldiers and two Revolutionary War soldiers are buried here.



The section also includes the grave of **William Thomas Overby**, a member of Mosby's Rangers who was captured and hanged when he refused to divulge the location of his unit. He was buried in Front Royal, Virginia. Through the efforts of Judge Byrom Matthews, his grave was located and permission was

obtained to bring the body back to Newnan. With impressive ceremonies, he was reinterred in Oak Hill in 1997. He was known as the "*Nathan Hale of the South*"



A Confederate Memorial Day service is held here each year.

Dennis - Gilbert Section 19-A ... Row 3



This lot features a tall obelisk intricately detailed, with a wreath draped on the urn at the top, flowers, and in the center, hands holding a crown, which symbolizes the soul's achievement and the glory of God after death. It also includes the Masonic emblem. At the base of the marker of **Green K. Dennis** is the word "Husband". Another marker in the lot for his wife, **Cornelia Bigby Dennis**, resembles a chess piece.



"The sound of the gavel shall hail him nor more."

Buchanan Section 19-A ... Row 7



Captain Tom Musgrove Owen was wounded at Gaines Farm in Richmond during the Civil War. His marker depicts the state seal of Georgia on the front. Crossed swords on the back indicate a person of high military rank.



Yancey Section 19-C ... Row 3

Sisters **Rowena and Eleanor Yancey** came to Newnan from Virginia in 1872 and purchased the Coweta Hotel, operating it as the Virginia House. A typical Victorian style family lot, enclosed by a wrought iron fence. Prominent is the obelisk with the letter Y and the name Yancey in English script.



Berry
Section 19-A ... Row 3



Hibernia Dougherty Berry was the wife of **William Bird Berry**, an early settler in Newnan. An impressive memorial with a pensive angel sitting on a high pedestal holding a laurel wreath, a symbol of victory in death.

“She had beauty and wit without vanity or vice”

Berry
Section 19-A ... Row 3



Thomas Joel Berry was the infant son of **William Bird and Hibernia Berry**. The marker shows a cherub, and is heavily draped and centered with a spilled basket of flowers, symbolizing innocence, grief and sorrow.

Kellogg
Section 19-B ... Row 9



Professor Moses P. Kellogg began the first female college with a Master of Arts degree in 1853. The campus of College Temple covered an entire block and consisted of a laboratory, dormitories, and Arcade Hall. During the Civil War the buildings were used as a hospital for the sick and wounded. The college closed in 1889. Professor Kellogg's marker contains the inscription *“Erected by his pupils and friends. The Faithful Teacher, AE A T A T 66”*.

“She loved her Southern Friends”

Barbara Sharp Banta Switzerland County, Indiana

“There was no one like Miss Florrie”

Florence Robinson Carmichael

“A life spent in service to others”

Texas Dickson Wright

Orr
Section 27 ... Row 11

Sylvanus G. Orr was a local teacher and lawyer. He also served in the U.S. Army in the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Cuba. The scroll type marker shows crossed cannons and the letters C.A.C. (Coastal Artillery Command)



Barron
Section 4 ... Row 1

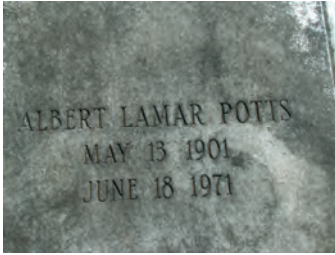
Vinnie Barron Rosenzweig was a talented teacher, artist, musician, and historian. She was accomplished in decorating eggs in the Faberge style and designed her marker as an obelisk with the impression of an egg on the base and again at the pinnacle.



The cedars at **Oak Hill** reflect a long tradition. Because they are evergreens, cedars are symbolic of eternal life. Some sources say early Americans saw cedars as being like cypresses, which have been associated with grief since ancient times. Both trees were noted for their aromatic wood and were used to build coffins in the past. The cedar also has significance for members of the Masonic orders.

Potts

Section 27 ... Row 3



Albert Lamar Potts served as Sheriff of Coweta County for 32 years. The new Coweta County jail was dedicated to his memory in 1977. He helped organize and was president of the Newnan

Baseball Association in 1950. Probably most noted for his role in solving the murder of Wilson Turner by John Wallace, a Meriwether County farmer.

Mansour

Section 36 ... Row 9



Ellis Mansour came to Atlanta from Lebanon in 1907 and then to Newnan where he began with a department store on Perry Street in 1911. His business grew to a successful men's wear

store on the Court Square. St. George Catholic Church was begun in his home. The marker is a crucifix with the inscription INRI. Side panels are embellished with designs.

Joseph Gibbs Arnall

Section 28 ... Row 3



A prominent family and businessman in Newnan. **Ellis Gibbs Arnall**, son of Joseph Gibbs and Bessie Ellis Arnold, was Georgia's

youngest Attorney General. He was the second Governor of Georgia from Newnan and served from 1943 to 1947. He was very progressive for the times and made many changes and updates to the Georgia Constitution and established the University Regents System. The family marker is a simple screen memorial.

Cuttino

Section 20 ... Row 1

The word "cemetery" in the Victorian era meant sleeping place. Many markers resemble beds or cradles. Some such markers are covered with shells, symbolizing life after death or resurrection. This is the grave of **Esther Cuttino**, wife of **John W. Kelley**.



Isaac S. Boyd Section 30 ... Row 7

Poignant markers in this lot are raised tombs with double rolled crosses for an infant who died in 1872 and the mother, **Mary Lane Boyd**, who died in 1891. The crosses are emblems of faith.



Featherston

Section 30 ... Row 8

Lucius H. Featherston was a lawyer, a judge of the superior court, and a soldier with the Georgia General Militia. The marker combines a rusticated style base with polished granite on the face, the initial F, and a rounded top with an urn.



Keith - Coggin Section 23 ... Row 1

This plot is for the Keith, Coggin, Camp, and Wager families. It features an impressive obelisk with architectural style columns and a shaped plinth. An unusual marker is for a right arm, which **John Keith**, whose grave is in front of it, lost in a sawmill accident.



Freeman
Section 32-C ... Row 11



Mary Caroline Freeman was the daughter of a prominent Newnan family. She obtained the rank of Lt. Col. in the Women's Army Corp and was awarded the Legion of Merit for outstanding service to her country. She was appointed the first woman bank director of C&S Bank of Atlanta. The family markers are incised in the classic outline.

Jones
Section 32-C ... Row 11



Robert O Jones was a distinguished lawyer in Newnan. The mausoleum is a double box tomb for himself and his wife. The front has an elaborate wreath and spray of palm

leaves, symbolizing victory and rejoicing. The design is repeated on the base of the individual markers.

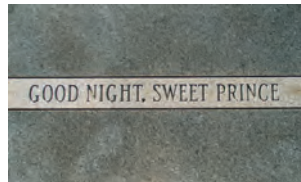
Cole
Section 23 ... Row 1



Robert Duke Cole and Matt Cole began a woodworking shop in the mid 1800's and converted to building water towers in the early 1900's.

Edwin M. Cole, son of Matt Cole was Treasurer of the

company. The mausoleum is a simple classic design with eight crypts. The Greek style pediment is embellished with the egg and dart design, symbolizing life and death. Acanthus leaves, representing heavenly ground, adorn the sides and top of the double doors.



Glover
Section 24 ... Row 2



Howard C. Glover was a prominent businessman and a large land owner. The screen memorial for the family is an elongated monolithic tablet. The center section features the name Glover, surrounded by a floral spray. The wings include the inscriptions Chi Pho on the left and Alpha and Omega on the right.

Armstrong
Section 24 ... Row 5

The double marker for the lot is inscribed Father - Mother at the base. **J.T. Armstrong's** marker shows the Masonic emblem, while **Mary Lane Armstrong's** shows a rose, which symbolized love and beauty. Above is a curved portion showing hands clasped, symbolizing farewell. It is crowned by a draped urn.



"Devoted Christian, faithful husband and wife at home with Jesus whom they loved and served on earth."

McRitchie - Howell
Section 32-C ... Row 1

The McRitchies came to the United States from Scotland in 1866, but the mother died shortly after their arrival. An aunt of their three children brought them to live in Newnan so the girls could attend College Temple. The unusual monument is rough cut stone, etched with a spray of thistle, symbolizing Scottish descent and remembrance.

