

Oakland Cemetery

Walking Tour

Yellow Fever Victims



Between August and November of 1873, Shreveport lost one-quarter of its population (about 2,500 out of 10,000) to the third greatest epidemic of yellow fever ever to strike the United States. About half of these people died and the other half fled, never to return. Almost all of the roughly 1,200 victims are buried at Oakland, with roughly 759 of them in a mass grave called the "Yellow Fever Mound," in the cemetery's southwest quadrant.

Amanda Arnett Clark



Amanda Arnett Clark was a 19th century philanthropist. She was born a slave in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1840. She developed the Austin Street properties which lie to the southwest of the cemetery. Her son, Dickerson Alphonse Smith, was the first African-American physician in Shreveport and was the first African-American member of the Shreveport Medical Society. He is buried next to his mother. The death date of Amanda Clark is incorrect on the stone. Clark died on February 27, 1902.

Colonel Leon Dawson Marks

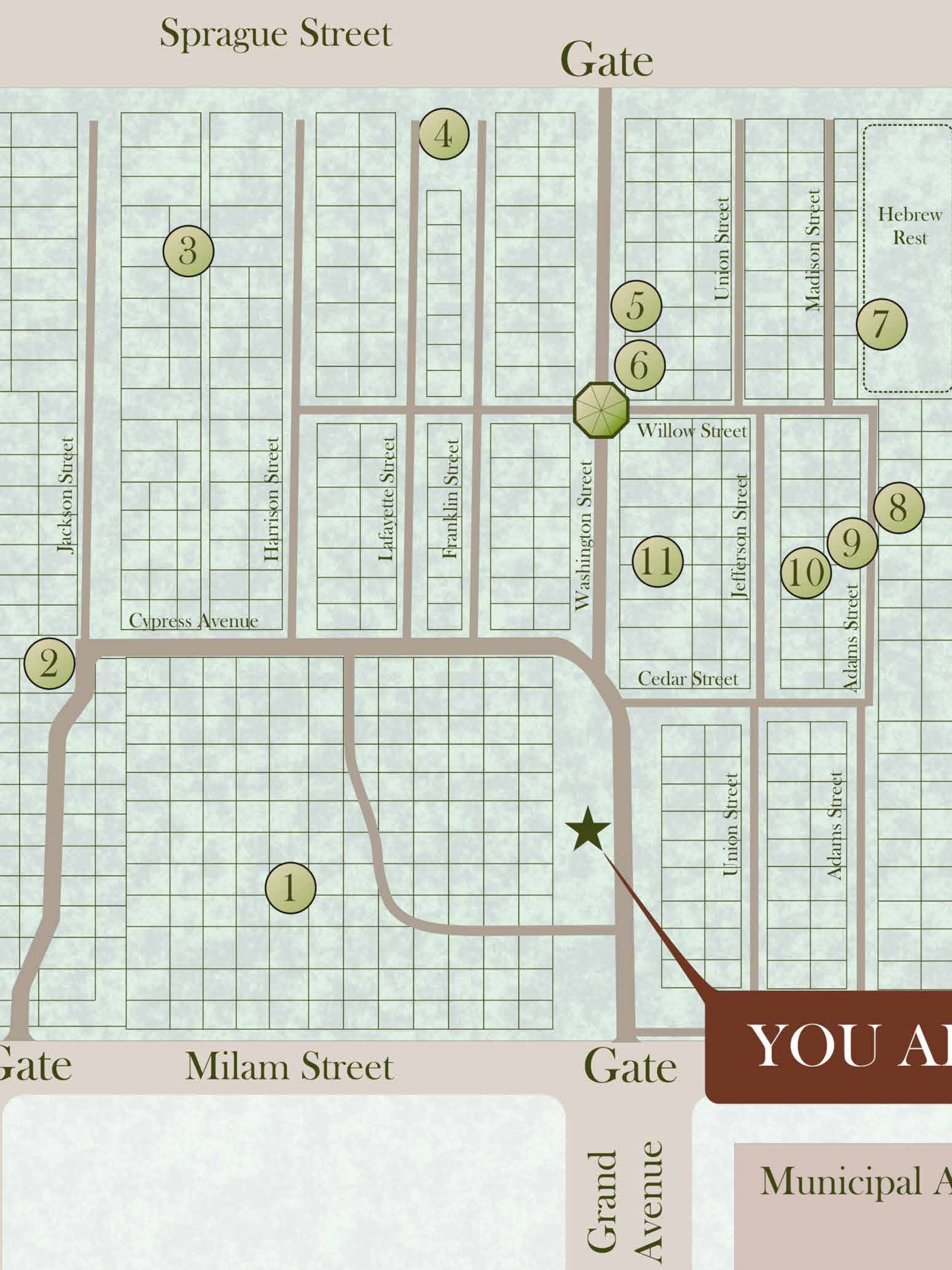


Colonel Leon Dawson Marks was an attorney, newspaper publisher, and Confederate colonel, commanding the 27th Louisiana Infantry Regiment during the campaign and siege of Vicksburg, but, was brought to Shreveport, where he died. His funeral was attended by Lt. General Edmund Kirby Smith and Maj. General Richard Taylor and their staffs. Marks was born in Bayou Sara (St. Francisville), Louisiana, in 1829 and died on September 23, 1863.

Mary Bennett Cane



Mary Bennett Cane was Shreveport's first female settler of European descent. She was a business partner of Henry Miller Shreve in the Shreve Town Company and operated a ferry service across the Red River, as well as an extensive supply business for pioneers heading west. She is considered to be the "mother" of Shreveport and the "grandmother" of Bossier City. Cane owned Elysian Grove Plantation near the Bossier side of what is now the Texas Street Bridge. Cane was born in Chichester, New Hampshire, on August 27, 1812, and died in Bossier Parish on May 13, 1902.

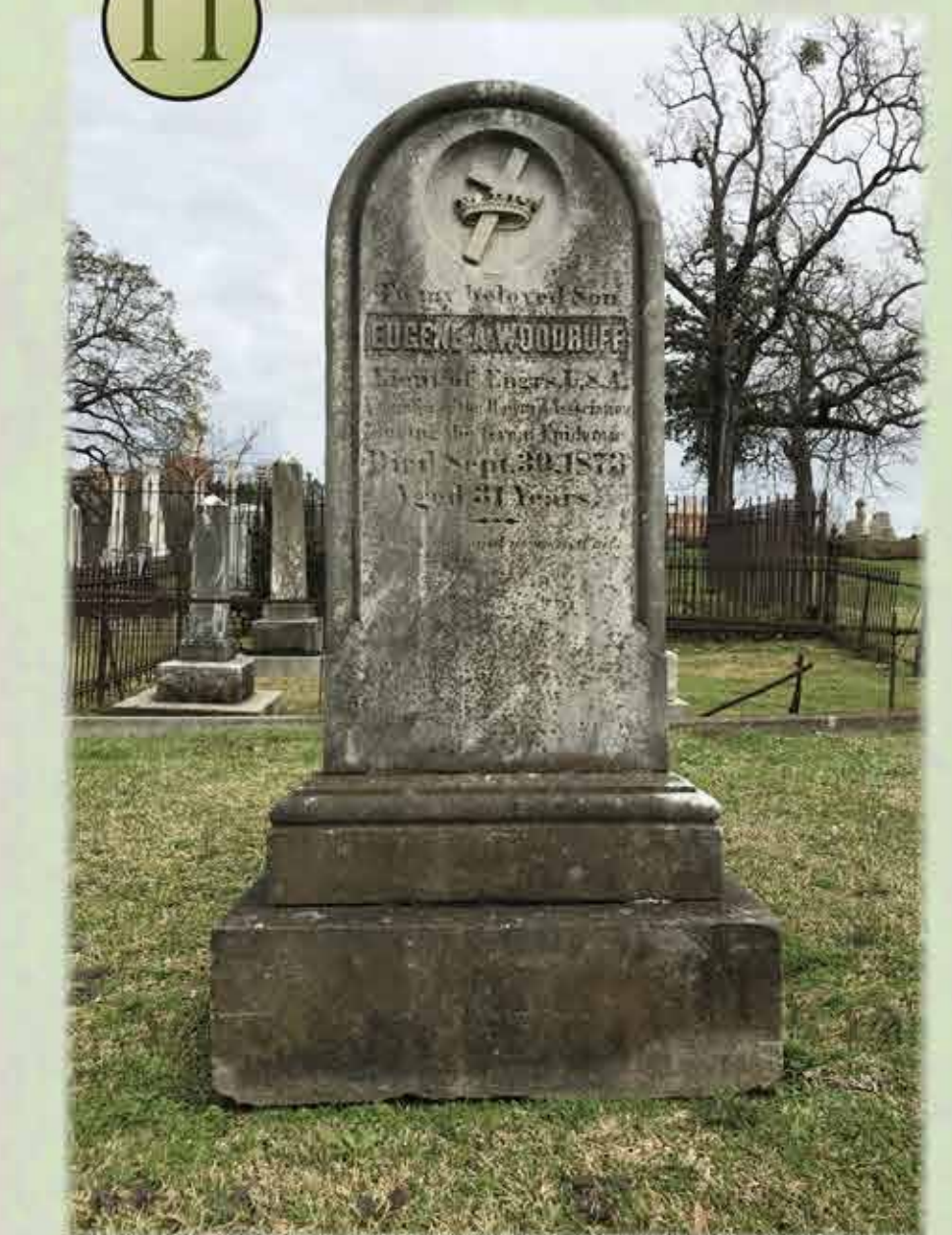


Parking Lot

YOU ARE HERE

Municipal Auditorium

Lieutenant Eugene Augustus Woodruff



Lieutenant Eugene Augustus Woodruff of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was a hero of the Great Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1873 in Shreveport. Woodruff, along with his unit, was sent to remove the final vestige of the Great Raft logjam which plagued the Red River. During the summer of 1873, yellow fever broke out in Shreveport, and his unit was ordered out for safety. Woodruff remained to care for the stricken and died of the disease. He was born in Avon, Connecticut, on November 26, 1841, but was raised in Burlington, Iowa. Woodruff died in Shreveport on September 30, 1873.

Rufus Sewall



Rufus Sewall was the brother of the first mayor of Shreveport, John O. Sewall. Like his brother, Rufus Sewall was killed in a duel. He was originally buried in the older Fannin Street Cemetery, but his body was later moved to Oakland in 1849. The burial of Rufus Sewall is the oldest marked burial in Oakland. Sewall was born in Hallowell, Maine, on December 11, 1803, and was killed June 20, 1842.

Annie McCune



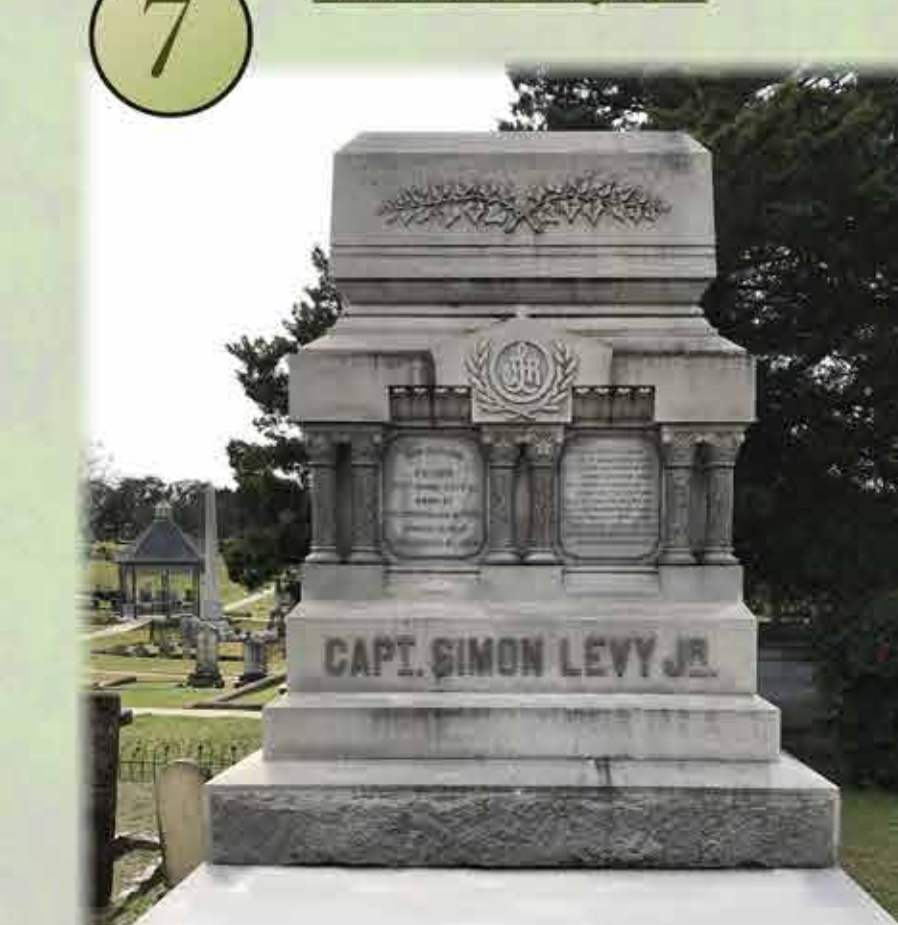
Annie McCune is best known as the "Shreveport Madam" from the book of that title by the late Goodloe Stuck. She was one of the principal madams of the legal red light district in Shreveport until it was closed down in 1917. McCune was instrumental in the creation of the district and was an advocate of women's rights. Her date of birth is unknown and she apparently never allowed a photograph to be taken of her. McCune died in Shreveport on June 13, 1920.

Lieutenant Claiborne Lee Foster



Lt. Claiborne Lee Foster was a member of Troop G of the 5th U.S. Cavalry Regiment. He was the son of James M. Foster and Ellen Long Foster. He died while in military service at the very end of the Indian Wars at Fort Reno, Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Upon his death, his body was returned to his family in Shreveport. He was born June 11, 1865, and died on August 10, 1890. Foster's tomb is one of the most unusual in Oakland. It is an unfinished column with an officer's sash and sword belt draped over it - the symbol of a fallen hero.

Simon Levy, Jr.



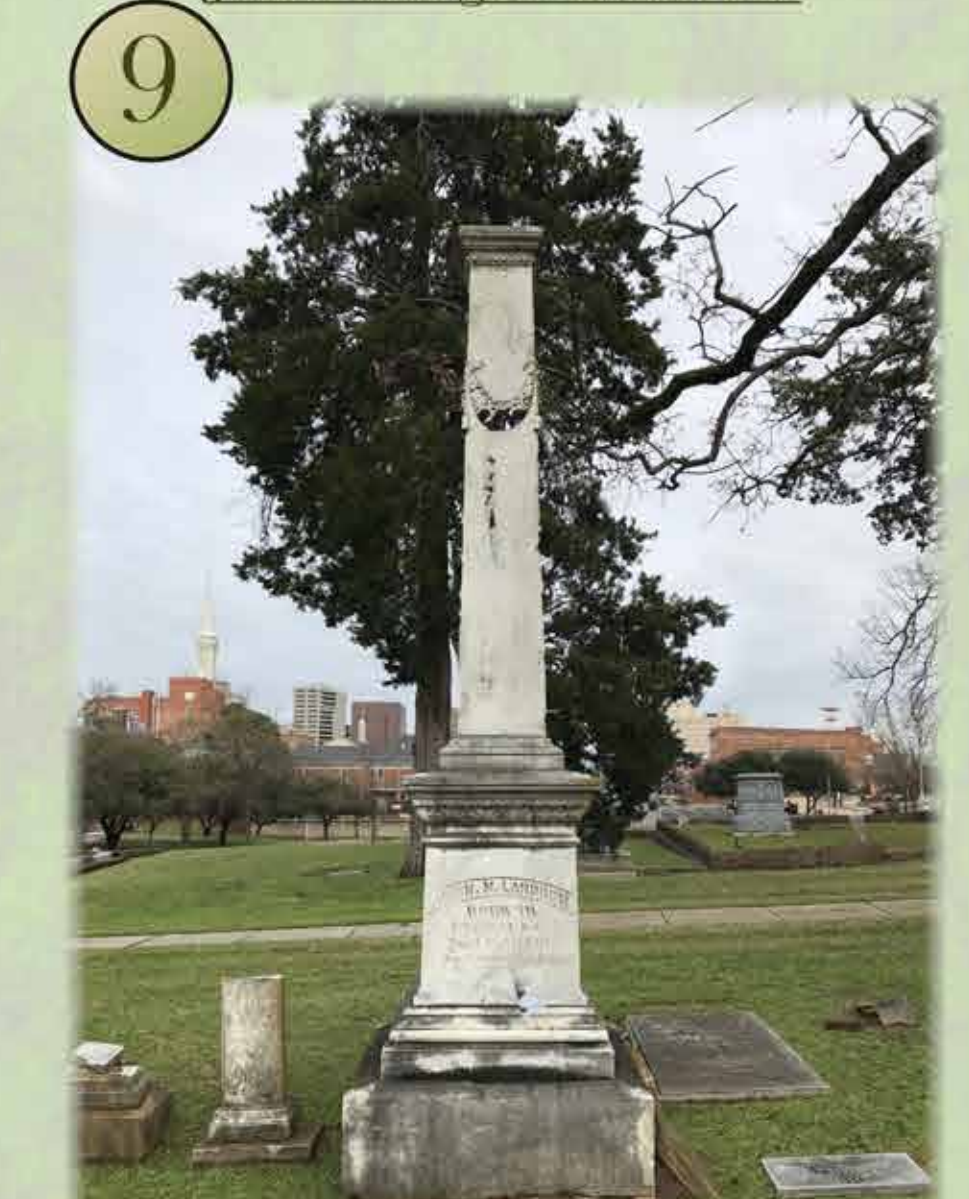
Simon Levy, Jr. was a man best known as a vice president of the Kansas City Railroad - the very railroad he helped bring to Shreveport. Levy was a co-founder of the Charity Hospital which is now called Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport. He was Captain of Company D, 1st Louisiana Regiment (CSA). Levy was born in Niedersbach, Alsace on March 15, 1839 and died in Shreveport on March 27, 1898.

Lawrence Pike Crain



Lawrence Pike Crain was an attorney and mayor of Shreveport. He was responsible for the purchase of the four city blocks which constitute Oakland Cemetery from Mary Bennett Cane in 1847. He served as a captain in the Mexican War. Crain was born in Fauquier County, Virginia, on January 25, 1811 and died in New Orleans on January 28, 1859.

John Morgan Landrum



John Morgan Landrum was an early mayor of Shreveport. He later served as the northwestern Louisiana representative to the U.S. Congress. He voted to secede from the Union in January 1861, but died that same year. Landrum was born in Edgefield, South Carolina on July 3, 1815, and died on October 18, 1861.