

HENRIE (HENRY) J. FERGUSON TOMBSTONE

On 30 April 1978, a lone and loose tombstone, broken into two parts, was found by Lawrence Barger, 1527 Mt. Moriah Road, while looking for edible plants in a wooded and undergrown area south of and adjacent to Willow Road Park. Mr. Barger reported his find to the police department and to the Memphis Press-Scimitar. See their newspaper article regarding this stone in the 4 May 1978 edition, East Section, for details. The tombstone inscription reads:

Henrie J. Ferguson
Died May 12, 1854
Aged 28 years

So must we pass, the young, the
fond, the joyous hearted. Like stars
they wane till every link on earth be
parted, to form in heaven one mystic
chain.

Stone: Fuller of St. Louis

NOTES: The 1850 Census of Shelby Co TN, 11th Civil District, P.O. The Town of Germantown, p.199-R, dated 12 Dec 1850 lists: House #1695 Lucken, A H. 48 m merchant born Germany, Sophia 45 b Germany, Frederick 26 farmer born Germany, Amelia 13 born TN, Ferguson, Henry 24 teacher b VA and Ferguson, Sarah 19 b VA.

#1696 Lanier, Lewis R. 39 carpenter born GA, Mary 27 born GA and their two children, and John and Cynthia Lucas, who married in Shelby Co 23 Jun 1850.

#1690 Phillips, John R 26 brickmason born Indiana; Terresy 22 female born AL (They were married in Shelby County 6 Jan 1850 by Rev. J.S. Cross, a Baptist clergyman living in House #1605.)

On 19 Nov 1866 Sarah G. Ferguson married J.A. Phillips.
(Shelby Co TN?)

The West side of Willow Road Park adjoins the East side (back) of Overton High School which is located on the East side of Lanier Street. A former Overton High School student who attended there in 1966 or so, said that he had seen such a stone many times behind the school near the edge of the woods. Could this be the same stone? Were there others? A family cemetery (the Lanier or the Rutland families - Susan Rutland owned this land in 1888 per map) could have been established at this location which was in C.D. #11, an area of Germantown Post Office.

(Editor's note: At one time, on a date not recorded, a stone with the same information was located in the Germantown Cemetery and the poem was followed by these words "By his wife", according to Betsy Foster West.)