Mt. Olive Cemetery, Jackson MS
COMING OF AGE IN MISSISSIPPI

THE CLASSIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF GROWING UP POOR AND BLACK IN THE RURAL SOUTH

ANNE MOODY

"An Eloquent, Moving Testimonial To Her Courage... A Shattering Experience." — Chicago Tribune
Tragedy struck Jackson State College on May 15, 1970, when Jackson police and Mississippi Highway Patrol officers suppressed student unrest with intense gunfire. Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green were killed and many injured when bullets riddled Alexander Hall and peppered nearby areas. Law enforcement had massed at the college to subdue students protesting harassment from whites driving through campus, police intimidation, and the recent killing of four student demonstrators at Kent State University by the Ohio National Guard.
Mt. Olive Cemetery, Jackson MS
Mt. Olive Cemetery

MDAH Grant, Certified Local Government Grant, 2016

- Write up nomination to get it listed on National Register of Historic Places
- Research cemetery and who is buried there
- Preserve James (Jim) Hill and Ida Revels Redmond Statues
JSU Campus in the early 1900’s
Mt. Olive Cemetery may get new lease on life

By LEE RAGLAND
JACKSON DAILY NEWS Staff Writer

Barbara Barber figures the Mt. Olive Cemetery is on its death bed.

"A lot of people are buried there, and their relatives don't know where," said Barber, a Jackson resident who can't even find her grandmother's grave amid the fallen tombstones and scattered trash.

The four-acre cemetery in the 1000 block of Lynch Street is the final resting place of many of Jackson's most prominent blacks. Beautiful vaults, statues and markers once noted the graves.

That's hardly the case these days for the cemetery three blocks from the bustling Jackson State University campus.

Overturned and broken tombstones litter the grounds. Many graves are no longer marked at all. Wrought iron fences are coated with rust and several mausoleum walls have been ripped down. Weeds sprout around markers.

Near the statue of former Mississippi Secretary of State James Hill are discarded wine and beer bottles.

"Just like so many other things in that community, it had a tendency to go downhill," said Jackson architect Charles Barlow. "It hasn't had enough attention."

Barlow is wrapping up a year's work crafting plans to drastically change Lynch Street into Jackson's gleaming high-tech corridor and revitalize run-down neighborhoods around Jackson State. Included in the multimillion-dollar project is returning the historic cemetery to its former life.

Fallen tombstones will be righted. Litter will be removed. Landscaping will bring new touches of green.

"This is something we want to make as a focal point in the community," said Barlow, head of Barlow & Plunkett architectural and engineering firm on North State.
Pamela Junior’s relatives standing in front of Mt. Olive.
• MS State Architecture Students
• 1999
• 268 burial sites
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
Bureau of Vital Statistics

PLACE OF DEATH

County
Village or City

JACKSON

FULL NAME

Virginia Jordan

SEX

Female

COLOR OR RACE

White

SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Write the word)

Married

DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year)

1875

YEARS

53

MONTHS

DAYS

OCCUPATION OF DECEDENT

Midwife

CAUSE OF DEATH

Pneumonia

CONTRIBUTORY

Cerebral Asphyxia

Where was disease contracted?

If not at place of death?

Did an operation precede death?

If so, state nature of operation

Was there an autopsy?

Complete

What test confirmed diagnosis?

Complete

Signed

M. E. Hauser

M.D.

Address

Jackson, Miss.

Registration District No. 29

Primary Registration Dist. No. Reg. No.

297 2

Certificate of Death

23265
<table>
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<tr>
<th>map #</th>
<th>first name</th>
<th>middle name</th>
<th>last name</th>
<th>dob</th>
<th>dod 1</th>
<th>dod 2</th>
<th>yod</th>
<th>gender</th>
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<td>87</td>
<td>Willie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>4/25/1909</td>
<td>9/18/1920</td>
<td>9/18/1920</td>
<td></td>
<td>m</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Blanche</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>8/18/1912</td>
<td>8/18/1912</td>
<td>8/18/1912</td>
<td></td>
<td>f</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burrell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>~1874</td>
<td>~11/22/1896</td>
<td>~11/22/1896</td>
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<td>m</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td></td>
<td>Allen</td>
<td>~1877</td>
<td>~8/30/1893</td>
<td>~8/30/1893</td>
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<td>f</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td></td>
<td>Allison Jr.</td>
<td>1/25/1896</td>
<td>1/30/1943</td>
<td>1/30/1943</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George</td>
<td></td>
<td>Almo</td>
<td>0/0/1865</td>
<td>2/3/1915</td>
<td>2/3/1915</td>
<td></td>
<td>m</td>
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<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Maud</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ammons</td>
<td>6/20/1890</td>
<td>7/30/1929</td>
<td>7/30/1929</td>
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<td>f</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amanda</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>4/7/1857</td>
<td>8/11/1923</td>
<td>8/11/1923</td>
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<td>f</td>
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<td>191</td>
<td>Beverley</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>0/0/1841</td>
<td>9/6/1903</td>
<td>9/6/1903</td>
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<td>f</td>
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<td></td>
<td>child of Beverly</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>~1888</td>
<td>~8/28/1893</td>
<td>~8/28/1893</td>
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<td>m</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>0/0/1844</td>
<td>10/9/1914</td>
<td>10/9/1914</td>
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<td>m</td>
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Results

• Mt. Olive has 1,461 known burial sites, and there may be more.
Results

First burial: 6/19/1807

Last burial: 4/18/1997

Birthdates chart:
- Known birth date: 420 (28%)
- Unknown birth date: 1,041 (72%)
There are various causes of death for infants and children including cholera, measles, teething, and spotted fever. Many were stillbirths and/or no doctor was present when delivered.
69.8% of the burials have a color classification.

The classification of yellow was only used in the years 1911-1912. Yellow refers to an individual who is a descendant of mixed heritage. Black, Negro, and colored are interchangeably used depending on who is filling out the death certificate.

2 Classified as light.
554/1,461 had a listed occupation (38%).

Approximately 77% of all African American women were listed as domestic laborers. Other occupations included, fieldhands, laundress, cook, seamstress, school teacher, midwife, and beauty consultant.
The majority of African American men were common laborers, 13%. Other occupations included blacksmith, brick mason, chauffeur, cotton spotter, drayman (driver of a wagon pulled by horses), farmer, machinist, minister, physician, plaster, plumber, porter (carries objects for others), railroad laborer, waiter, and umbrella repairer.

Milton Chambliss, Business man and owner of the Chambliss Shoe Hospital
The Washington Addition neighborhood directly south of the cemetery, is referenced in 1915 in one of the death certificates.
Common reasons include cerebral hemorrhage, chronic nephritis, consumption, dropsy, heart trouble, influenza, pneumonia, malaria, measles, no doctor, pellagra, pulmonary tuberculosis, stillborn, teething, typhoid fever, and whooping cough. The first time the term “diabetes” was described as a cause of death was in 1914.
Place of Birth

- Jackson: 42%
- Hinds Cty: 12%
- Other: 46%
<table>
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<th>Census</th>
<th>Pop.</th>
<th>%±</th>
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<td>1850</td>
<td>1,881</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>3,191</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>4,234</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>5,204</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>5,920</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>7,816</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>21,262</td>
<td>172.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>22,817</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>48,282</td>
<td>111.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>62,107</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
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Preservation Work
James (Jim) Hill
Born a Slave
Mother gave birth to him at 14
Elected Secretary of State, 1874-1878
Preservation Work
Ida Revels Redmond

Daughter of Hiram Revels, 1st AA United States Senator
Organized women’s self-improvement groups such as youth education and voter registration
Wife of Dr. Sydney Dillion Redmond, lawyer and physician
Mother of Sydney Revels Redmond, NAACP Lawyer, son graduated from Harvard Law school.
The vast majority of these Confederate monuments were built during the era of Jim Crow laws (1877–1954) and the Civil Rights Movement (1954–1968). Detractors claim that they were not built as memorials but as a means of intimidating African Americans and reaffirming white supremacy.
Academic commentary  Laws hindering removals  Removed monuments ...

What We Talk About When We Talk About Confederate Monuments
origins.osu.edu/.../what-we-talk-about-when-we-talk-about-confederate-monuments
Not all monuments depicted Confederate soldiers. Some honored white conservatives who died after the Civil War defending white supremacy. Such a monument was erected in 1920 to memorialize the 1873 Colfax Massacre (then called "riot") during which some 150 African American men were murdered.

Confederate Monuments News & Videos - ABC News - ABC News
https://abcnews.go.com/alerts/confederate-monuments
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Whose Heritage? Public Symbols of the Confederacy | Southern ...
https://www.splcenter.org/20190201/whose-heritage-public-symbols-confederacy
Jump to A closer look: Laws in seven states protect Confederate monuments - Southerners opposed to the removal of Confederate monuments have ...

Whose History and Symbols? The Civil War - Confederate
Maurice F. Lucas Sr.,
Grandmaster
State of
Mississippi
M.W. Stringer
Grand Lodge
Main Entrance Gate

Please add Mt. Olive Name to entrance gate and a donors wall on entrance pillars.
Way finding Sign
Entrance of cemetery
Add African American people to the model.
Pathways through out the cemetery
Add a pathway to the statues
Restored Headstones
All headstones should be facing east
Memorial Wall
South of the Cemetery
Memorial Wall
South of the Cemetery
Memorial Wall
Bench seating
Place to put flowers
Memorial Wall
South of the Cemetery
Historic Cemetery
Mt. Olive
Where Freed Men and Women Rest
1807-1997
Conclusions

June 2017, Mt. Olive was added to the National Register of Historic Places

Published the research book

Preserved the two statues

Launched a Campaign for more preservation

Filming a Documentary
www.jsums.edu/mtolive

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MS Humanities Council