

### *Notable Persons Buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery*

1. Hobart Baird Edwards, Sr. 1897-1959. WWI veteran, Pro-tem of Georgia Senate, Mayor of Valdosta, Records Court Judge. Section B108, Block F-2, Lot 38.
2. Nick Hyder, 1935-1996. Valdosta High School Football Coach. Section B205, Block L-3, Lot 15.
3. Hyta Plowden Mederer, 1912-1997. Valdosta clubwoman and local benefactress. Section 203, Block L-2, Lot 195.
4. West Mausoleum. Colonel William S. West, 1849-1914. Builder of The Crescent and United States Senator. Section B204, Block L-2, Lot 243.
5. William Evan Thomas, 1869-1944. Superior Court Judge and Solicitor in Rawlings-Carter Murder Trial 1905-1906. Section B205, Block L-3, Lot 25.
6. James Freeman Holmes, 1918-1950. Son of Coca-Cola Bottling Company owner Joseph Freeman Holmes. Near Ann Street entrance, has a Coke bottle embossed on headstone. Section C202, Block 5, Lot 76.
7. Eula Newton Barfield, 1881-1967, and Robert E. Barfield, 1878-1949. On a cement bench located on the Barfield's graves is the inscription "neath this seat lie five infant Barfields," thought to have been quintuplets born in 1906. Section 203, Block 75, Lot 9.
8. Henry Sims Morgan, 1874-1898. In 1897, Morgan was the first West Point graduate from Valdosta. On August 31, 1898, during a terrible hurricane, the Norwegian Bark *Noe* wrecked in Tybee Roads, putting the crew in jeopardy. At that time, the 24-year-old Morgan, a Second Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers, was in charge of the fortification work at Fort Screven during the Spanish-American War. Morgan and a crew of five volunteers attempted to rescue the imperiled Norwegian sailors; however, Morgan and one volunteer lost their lives in the attempt. Morgan's remains were not found for eight years, but were returned to Valdosta in 1908 for burial in Sunset Hill. Section C203, Block 54, Lot 7.
9. U.S. Air Force Major Lyn Davis McIntosh, 1946-1980. Major McIntosh was killed May 23, 1980 in the attempt to rescue American hostages in Iran. Section C105, Block 5, Lot 291.
10. Alice Jane (McKey) Holliday, 1829-1866. Wife of Major Henry B. Holliday and mother of John Henry "Doc" Holliday. Grave located a few yards in front of the cemetery office door. Section C307, Block 7, Lot 15.
11. Force family graves in Section C301, Block 2, Lot 10. These bricked graves belong to Charles Ogden Force (1823-1892), his wife Mary Ann (Smith) Force (1813-1887), his son

Richard "Dick" Sheffield Force (1847-1866), and his daughter Mary Catherine "Kitty" Force (1851-1866). Mr. Force donated the original 30 acres of land to the City for a Sunset Hill Cemetery. Son Dick Sheffield was reportedly killed in a fight during Reconstruction days in Valdosta. Section C301, Block 2, Lot 10.

12. Samuel McWhir Varnedoe, 1816-1870, Veteran CSA. Started first school in Valdosta after the Civil War. The Valdosta Institute was originally located on the corner of Varnedoe and River Streets. Section C303, Block 3, Lot 1.
13. James O. Varnedoe, 1842-1927. Mayor of Valdosta from 1877 to 1878 and a Spanish-American War Veteran. Section C303, Block 3, Lot 1.
14. Philip Coleman Pendleton, 1812-1869. Founder of *The Valdosta Times* and a Major in the Confederate Army. Section C305, Block 5, Lot 2.
15. William V. Prewitte, 1919-1944. Memorial. Veteran U.S. Air Force. Lost in action during World War II. Section C305, Block 5, Lot 4.
16. Dr. Thomas William Ellis, 1804-1861. First person interred at Sunset Hill Cemetery. Veteran CSA. Section C305, Block 5, Lot 4.
17. Reuben Thompson Roberds, 1834-1863. Memorial. Valdosta's First Mayor from 1860-1861. Veteran CSA; died in the Civil War. Buried in Kentucky. Section C306, Block 6, Lot 7.
18. Major Henry B. Holliday, 1819-1893. Mayor of Valdosta from 1872-1873 and 1876-1877. Father of John Henry "Doc" Holliday. His second wife failed to mark his grave, but it is thought to be located on or near the Stephen Martin lot. A memorial plaque was placed on this spot in 1993. Section C307, Block 7, Lot 15.
19. B. F. Strickland, 1854-1915. Strickland Cotton Mill Founder. Prominent obelisk features a statue of Strickland facing west, towards the City of Remerton and his cotton mill. Section C313, Block 13, Lot 4.
20. Unknown Slaves Memorial. The monument states: "A memorial dedicated to the unknown slaves of Valdosta in recognition of their sacrifices and contributions to our community." This site contains no marked graves. Located near the old African-American section, north of Section C407, south of Sections P1 and P2, and west of Section M-11.
21. Hebrew Section. Decorative overhead entrance and columns. All marked graves. [add more] Located north of Section D105, west of Section D201-203, south of Section F101, and east of Section I.

22. James O'Rourke, 1848-1902. Circus employee and elephant trainer from New Orleans who was killed by his female elephant, Gypsy. While on route to Valdosta, Gypsy became extremely agitated. At a train stop six miles away from Valdosta, O'Rourke tried to calm the animal, but the elephant went wild, crushed O'Rourke, and escaped the train. The elephant was chased over downtown streets, and out to Cherry Creek, where it was eventually killed and buried. O'Rourke's grave features a small obelisk. Section C402, Block 5, Lot 12.
23. Emory P. Bass, Sr., 1891-1971. Mayor of Valdosta 1956-1958, Veteran of both World Wars. Section D101, Block 5, Lot 4.
24. John Taylor Roberts, 1850-1920. Much progress made in Valdosta during Roberts' five consecutive terms as Mayor of Valdosta 1906-1916. Roberts and his family occupied the oldest house in Valdosta for several generations, which was eventually donated to the Valdosta Heritage Foundation. Roberts was also known for his successful buggy and wagon business, housed in the building located at 106-108 W. Hill Avenue. Section E110, Block 7, Lot 1.
25. Lt. Col. W. L. Redles, 1894-1932. USMC Retired, buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Information on headstone of his wife, Leona Roberts Redles, 1895-1955, daughter of John Taylor Roberts. Section E110, Block 7, Lot 1.
26. Spanish American War Veterans, many buried here just south of the Roberts lot. Section E106, Block 32, Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6.
27. Graves of interest in the former African-American cemetery include: Reverend J.L. Lomax (1898-1976) and his wife Fannie Harden Lomax (d. 1982) Section N5, Block R4, Lots 72 and 73; Thomas Hudson (1866-1931) Section M2, Block, R2, Lot 41; Chancey R. (d. 1949) and Emily Hudson (d. 1998) Section M2, Block R2, Lots 40 and 41; Eli Powell (1879-1965) Section O2, Block R1, Lot 3; Guy P. Bryant (1885-1965) Section M2, Block R2, Lot 28); Progestr (1889-1953) and Ester Hampton (d. 1957) Section N6, Block R4, Lots 51 and 52. The mother of Demond Wilson, who played Lamont Sanford in "Sanford and Son" is buried in section G.
28. Joan Cranford Lundsberg, 1933-1997 and Paul (not deceased). The "Russian Monument". A family from Florida, Joan was a native Valdostan. Section F208, Block 93, Lot 1.
29. Judge Harley Langdale (1888-1972). Langdale Mausoleum, Section C105, Block 5, Lot 306.