

Magnolia Cemetery



A Legacy of Service

As you stroll these peaceful grounds, look for the memorials that mark the graves of some of Magnolia Cemetery's founders—Abraham H. Miller, Dr. John W. Marquess, Moses Profitt, Jacob Donohoo and Moses Turner. These men made it their mission to create a cemetery for Helena's African American community.

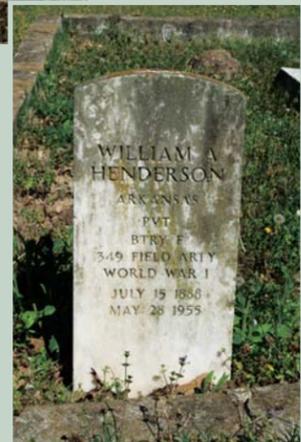
Others buried here strove to improve lives by holding public office, providing health care, spiritual guidance or the opportunity for an education. Veterans of the Civil War are the earliest the many buried here who served their country in the armed forces.



Rev. Abraham H. Miller, right, was an influential businessman and legislator who became a Baptist minister. His wife, Eliza, upper right, used personal funds to establish the first black high school in Phillips County.



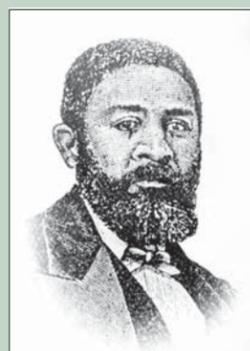
First Sergeant Badd Tabb and Private William A. Henderson served during World War I.



James Kelley served in the Civil War with Company I, 56th United States Colored Infantry. He fought at the Phillips County Battle of Big Creek in July 1864.

"Our future is sure. God has marked it out with his own finger; here we have lived, suffered, fought, bled, and many have died. We will not leave the graves of our fathers, but here we will rear our children; here we will educate them to a higher destiny; here, where we have been degraded, will we be exalted—Americans in America, One and Indivisible."

William Henry Grey, a delegate from Phillips County, speaking against a proposal that former slaves migrate to Africa introduced at the Convention of Colored Citizens, Little Rock, 1865.



William H. Grey, a delegate to the 1868 Arkansas Constitutional Convention later elected to the state legislature, argued eloquently and passionately for black equality. He was one of the most influential black leaders in Arkansas.

