

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name De Ann Cemetery Historic Section

other names/site number Prescott City Cemetery/NE0076

### 2. Location

street & number ½ mile west of the junction of US Highway 371 and AR 19

☐ not for publication

city or town Prescott

☒ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Nevada code 099 zip code 71857

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐  
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic  
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐  
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Macchus  
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/7/05  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

6/1/05  
Date of Action

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☒ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: cemetery

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: cemetery

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other STONE: marble, granite

METAL

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### SUMMARY

De Ann Cemetery Historic Section is located in southwest Arkansas near Prairie D'Ane, a natural grasslands that is six to seven miles long and three to four miles wide. Just outside the city limits of Prescott in Nevada County, Arkansas, the De Ann Cemetery Historic Section is the burial site of many early settlers of the area, including founders of the Town of Prescott. On April 3, 1880, Perry C. Hamilton and his wife Martha conveyed the land for the purposes of a cemetery to the City of Prescott. The land was already being used as a cemetery, based on six tombstones dating from the 1870s. The land given by the Hamiltons was divided equally into the White and Black Historic Sections. The White Historic Section contains approximately 600 marked graves. The Black Historic Section contains approximately 95 marked graves, but it is reliably reported that it is filled with unmarked graves, thus the exact number of graves in the Black Historic Section cannot be determined. Newer sections of the cemetery lie across U. S. Highway 371 from the Historic Section. For the purposes of this nomination, only the Historic Section is being considered for nomination.

### ELABORATION

#### White Historic Section:

The oldest grave is that of a baby named Henry H. Cooper, born on 12/17/1871 and died on 12/18/1871. This was the same year the County of Nevada was formed. This grave antedates by over a year the founding of the Town of Prescott. Prescott was platted on August 8, 1873, by employees of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad and a local surveyor, and was incorporated in October 1874. About 26% of the total graves date prior to 1900. Over half of the total burials in the White Historic Section pre-date 1955, with only 16% of the burials in the Section having taken place since that year, according to a cemetery survey made by Jerry and Jeanie McKelvy in 1999.

The dates on approximate 600 graves in the White Historic Section break down as follows:

1870s----6  
1880s----80  
1890s----77  
1900s----73  
1910s----70  
1920s----57  
1930s----57  
1940s----45  
1950s----36  
1960s----30  
1970s----25  
1980s----14  
1990s----16  
2000----1  
2001----2  
2002----1  
2003----0  
2004----1 (ashes only were interred)  
Unknown----14 There are no dates, or the dates are illegible.

The White Historic Section is now largely inactive. However, some families in Prescott still have plots here, and there will continue to be an occasional burial from time to time.

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### Black Historic Section:

Approximately two-thirds of the burials in this section occurred between 1890 and the 1930s. Slightly less than 20% occurred from the 1940s to the 1990s. The breakdown on the dates for the 95 marked graves is as follows:

1870s----0  
1880s----0  
1890s----1  
1900s----12  
1910s----16  
1920s----35  
1930s----7  
1940s----2  
1950s----5  
1960s----5  
1970s----1  
1980s----4  
1990s----0  
2000s----0  
Unknown----6

The Black Historic Section appears to be completely inactive with no new burials for nearly two decades. Scattered depressions and sunken areas give the indication of unmarked graves, and reliable sources do report, in fact, that this section is filled with burials. There is no room for new interments.

### Landscape Design

Located away from the center of the Town of Prescott but within the city limits, De Ann Cemetery has an attractive setting with open views of the surrounding countryside. The large Potlatch mill, formerly the Ozan Lumber Company, is located to the west of the Historic Section of the cemetery. It is not, however, a hindrance to the quiet enjoyment of the cemetery. It is also appropriate that the industry which played such a role in Prescott's history, and continues to do so, should be in the immediate background. An extension of Gee Street provides the southern boundary of the Historic Section with the National Guard Armory on the south side of Gee. The south side is open with no fencing. The western end of the White Historic Section is fenced with chain link. De Ann Street also forms a western boundary. There is an old iron fence along the U.S. Highway 371 side of the cemetery, with some sections of fencing missing.

A Cypress tree and large shrubbery stand just to the east of the Historic Section's northwest corner, and flowers carpet the knoll in the spring and summer. Well-trimmed crepe myrtles line the southern boundary. The grounds are well-maintained, but many tombstones have fallen over, are broken, or are covered with lichens, mold or stains. Portions of the White Historic Section of the cemetery to the south seem to have been built up above the natural height of the land. Elizabeth Haltom noted that there was a deep ditch between the White and Black Historic Sections of the cemetery. Haltom is the daughter of Dr. John D. Cornish, who served Prescott as an undertaker from 1910 until his death in 1964. This ditch became a burying place for tramps and indigents of both races. She described it as a kind of "No Man's Land." It may have been the borrowing pit for dirt used to build up the west end of the cemetery. It has since been filled in.



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A black iron arch over the entrance and the drive separating the White and Black Historic Sections appears to be a modern replacement for an older arch that no longer exists. There is evidence of either an older arch or gateposts at the entrance. A lattice structure also formerly stood in the White Historic Section and provided shelter for funeral parties in inclement weather. Unfortunately, it is no longer extant.

The Black Historic Section also has less evidence of landscaping and lies on the lower ground to the east of the White Historic Section. It is only partially fenced on the north with iron fencing, and bushes provide a line of demarcation between this section of the cemetery and a grassy field to the east. It is completely open and un-shaded except for two tall sycamores and a bush here and there. Though graves in this section appear sparse, Haltom says it is completely filled with graves, many of which are unmarked.

### Grave Markers and Monuments

The layout of the Historic Section is a metaphor for society in early Prescott. The White Historic Section sits on a knoll with members of the Scott, Bemis and McRae Families occupying the high point on the knoll. Their large monuments dominate this section of the cemetery just as they dominated affairs in Prescott. The Scotts were business men and real estate developers. The McRaes were as well, in addition to being attorneys, bankers and politicians. The Bemis Family came to Prescott in the early 1890s and intermarried with the McRaes. They owned the Ozan Lumber Company until Potlatch purchased it in 1966. They had extensive holdings all over southwest Arkansas and owned the Prescott and Northwestern Railroad as well. The knoll is thick with the monuments of the well-to-do founding families of Prescott. They were the businessmen and professional men who built the city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A Cypress tree and large shrub stand just to the east of the McRae/Bemis monuments and flowers carpet the knoll in the spring and summer.

### WHITE HISTORIC SECTION

#### *McRae/Bemis*

The polished light gray granite monument at the apex of the knoll is marked with "McRae" on its east side and "Bemis" on its west side. It represents the association of two of the most powerful families in Prescott and southwest Arkansas through familial and marital ties in life and in death. The dominant family marker is classically simple in its lines and has dentils as a major decorative feature. It seems more indicative of the twentieth than the nineteenth century. Individual family members have thick flat markers of polished granite incised with names and dates. The sides of the stones contain comments on the lives of the individuals that are now difficult to read because of the growth of lichens. The selection of these stones suggests success, good taste, wealth and substance.

#### *Cassidy*

The Cassidy Family plot provides more examples of elaborate Victorian marbles. Patrick Cassidy (1844-1887) was an early merchant in Prescott and an Irish immigrant. His upright stones faces east with his name and dates on an oval medallion surrounded by a rope symbolizing eternity. The rope loops in and out of carved stone edges. The carved flowers above the oval appear to be roses in full bloom, symbolizing mortality, beauty and the death of a mature individual. His tombstone is in three parts suggesting the Trinity. It is topped with a Latin cross. Edward Cassidy (1817-1881), father of Patrick, has a marble obelisk standing in three parts, again suggesting the Trinity. His obelisk is free of decoration but does have his name, dates and an inscription. Some kind of additional decoration is missing from the top of the obelisk. Henry Cassidy (1884-1888), the son of Patrick, has a small marble stone with the lamb motif so commonly seen on the graves of children. It suggests the innocence and purity of childhood as well as the redemption of the lamb of God and resurrection.

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### *Hamilton/Christopher*

The Hamilton and Christopher families provide the most striking example in De Ann of graves with marble cradles. The upright curved marble headstones face east with unfolding scrolls. The scroll is a symbol of life and time. The rolled up ends suggest the scroll is of uncertain length and the past and future are hidden. The scrolls can also suggest honor and commemoration. Smaller scrolls lie over the foot of the cradle and provide a place to inscribe the initials of the deceased. A small marble tablet and a miniature obelisk mark the graves of children in the family. The family plot is further defined by concrete coping.

### **Black Historic Section**

The Black Historic Section lacks the ostentation of the White Historic Section. Hardly any marked graves appeared before the early 1900s. The general poverty and oppression of the Black community did not permit many African-Americans the luxury of a fine tombstone. Many of the markers from the first three decades of the 20th century are those of secret societies, and they attest to the important role of these institutions in the Black community. These organizations assisted their members in obtaining good burial markers.

### *Boyd*

The Boyd Family was at the pinnacle of the Black community in Prescott and in the State of Arkansas. The granite Boyd marker stands solidly upright facing east. It is incised with gates opening, suggesting Resurrection and the afterlife. S. T. Boyd (1859-1927) and his wife Annie (1868-1926) have identical upright curved stones facing east. They have a minimum of decoration and note names and dates. The somewhat smaller stone tablet of their son Arnett (1892-1918) is also in the family plot. Surprisingly, Boyd has no Masonic markings on his stone though he was the Grand Master of Black Masons in Arkansas for five years.

### **Secret Societies**

*Mosaic Templars*---This Little Rock-based organization provided a Vermont marble stone rounded and beveled at the top and incised with the logo of the Mosaic Templars, the name and dates of the deceased and the local lodge. Crossed torches symbolize immortality, purification, truth and wisdom. The encircling snakes are emblematic of everlasting life. The founders selected the name "Mosaic" because they likened the position of African-Americans in the late 19th century to the Children of Israel being held in slavery in Egypt before Moses led them out. The objective of the Templars, founded in 1882, was to improve the lot of Blacks and provide them with insurance. The tombstone provision was started in 1914. Its purpose was to allow people of small means to have a decent tombstone when needed. Ten stones in De Ann are that of the Mosaic Templars, representing lodges in Prescott and Okolona. The stones date from 1915 to 1927.

*Masons*---Prince Hall Masons appealed to a more elite segment of the Black community. Their monuments have four equal sides topped with a carved knob. The compass and set square symbolized the Freemasons, uprightness and judgment. Only five Masonic and Eastern Star stones stand in the Black Historic Section. The Masons, however, avoided the fate of the other secret societies and survived the Great Depression. The dates on these stones range from 1903 to 1984.

*International Order of Twelve Knights and Daughters of Tabor*---Founded in St. Louis in 1894 by Moses Dickson, this fraternal order encouraged upright living among its members through an elaborate system of rules, and offered positions with grand titles to which its members could aspire. It even prescribed the dress for its titled members. Like other fraternal orders, this order based its principles on Christianity and derived its name from Mount Tabor in Galilee, the traditional site of the transfiguration of Christ when he appears with Moses and Elijah before his disciples. Of course, the name suggests the lodge members, both men and women, will be transfigured. The Knights and Daughters of Tabor called its lodges "tabernacles" and also offered its members

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tombstones. Generally, the stones were a gray/white marble carved inward on both sides at the top and shaped to a point in the middle, perhaps suggesting the tabernacle. The traditional logo is a hexagon divided into pie-shaped wedges with the numbers 333 in the top three wedges and 777 in the bottom three of the six wedges. These numbers symbolized empowerment. The appeal of such an organization is understandable in a time when African-Americans faced an increasingly hostile racial climate following the end of slavery almost three decades earlier. The name of the order, the name of the deceased, and his or her dates, tabernacle and town were then incised on the stone. This order had adherents in Prescott. At least three different tabernacles are mentioned at Prescott on the stones in the Black Historic Section in De Ann. These stones have dates ranging from 1918 to 1928.

*Supreme Royal Circle of Friends of the World*--Dr. R. A. Williams, a physician born in 1879, founded this fraternal order in Helena, Arkansas, in 1909. The organization seems to have promoted mutual support and assistance among its members who were organized in circles. By 1913, the order was operating in five states with 25,000 members and assets of \$30,000. Reportedly, it had already paid out \$80,000 to beneficiaries. It had a paper called the *Royal Messenger* that operated from 1909-1922. From 1915 to 1922, the paper's byline noted its place of publication at Forrest City, St. Francis County, Arkansas. Two Prescott circles are mentioned on the tombstones in De Ann. They are Early View Circle #1171 and Willing Workers Circle #726. The eleven burials from 1915 to 1930 suggest a strong presence of this order in Prescott. Though the Royal Circle accepted both men and women, it is worth noting that eight of the 11 burials are those of women, indicating a strong appeal among the women of the Black community.

Little is known of the philosophy of the Royal Circle, but some inferences can be made from its tombstones. The stones were white marble in the shape of a column with four equal sides. They could lie flat on the ground or stand upright. Those that stood upright had a sloping top with the logo of the order. The deceased's name and dates were on the side of the column. The logo and the era suggest that Christian principles were the underpinning of this order as well. The Royal Circle uses geometric shapes and animal imagery in its logo. The circle is symbolic of eternity and the very name of the Order and its organization. The equilateral triangle inside the circle has long been associated with the Trinity. The letters "R", "C" and "F" in the points of the triangle, of course, stand for the Royal Circle of Friends. The number "09" in the center of the triangle commemorates the founding of the organization in 1909. The lion, which is either seen standing or reclining, is symbolic of the power of God and guards the tomb against evil spirits. The lion's watch is as eternal as the stone of which it is made and serves as a reminder of the courage and determination of the souls which it guards.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The De Ann Cemetery Historic Section contains some 695 marked graves. Approximately 84% date before 1955 and contribute to this nomination. Those buried in De Ann Cemetery Historic Section were the early settlers and town founders of Prescott and Nevada County. Vandalism to the cemetery has been relatively minor. Any damage to the stones seems to be largely attributable to weathering and lawnmowers or weed eaters. The grounds are well maintained and indicate the intention of the founding fathers to be part of the 19th century trend toward the Garden Cemetery Movement, at least in the White Historic Section. The people of Prescott attempted to make the cemetery a beautiful and pleasant place. The early workmanship of the cemetery is still evident in the landscape design and monuments. Within the nomination's boundary, only about 16% of the grave markers and monuments were found to be non-contributing due to burial dates.

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Levels of Significance** (local, state, national)

Local

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ART: funerary art

**Period of Significance**

1871-1955

**Significant Dates**

1871-1955

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Arkansas History Commission, Nevada County Courthouse



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### SUMMARY

De Ann Cemetery Historic Section is the final resting place for the early settlers of Prescott and Nevada County, and is significant to the history of the town and county. Those buried at De Ann Cemetery Historic Section include entrepreneurs, farmers, Civil War survivors, teachers and newspaper men. Their combined experience helped create a viable and sustainable community. The De Ann Cemetery Historic Section, located in Prescott, Nevada County, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the early settlement of Prescott and Nevada County. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as a fine example of 19th and 20th century funerary art. It is eligible for inclusion under **Criteria Consideration D** as a cemetery.

### ELABORATION

#### *Town and County History*

White settlement was slow to come in present-day Nevada County. Initially, the area around Prescott was part of the Missouri Township in Hempstead County. After only a slow trickle of land patents in the 1820s, the acquisition of government lands began in earnest in 1837—after statehood and after it became obvious that the Red River would be opened to navigation. Purchasers of lands included small farmers as well as southern planters who used slave labor and had the means to acquire large tracts. During the antebellum period, the scattered village of Moscow appeared along the Camden to Washington road just outside the present-day city limits of Prescott. Prairie D'Ane and Moscow would be the sites of significant clashes between Union and Confederate forces during the Camden Expedition in the spring of 1864.

Nevada County was formed in 1871 during the Reconstruction period. The county is composed of portions of Ouachita, Hempstead and Columbia Counties, and it is named for the silver-rich western state. The first county seat was located at Mt. Moriah for about a year and then relocated to Rosston. In 1873, the Cairo and Fulton railroad was built through present-day Prescott, and completed to Texarkana in early 1874.

A survey crew from the Cairo and Fulton Railroad platted out the town of Prescott on August 8, 1873, and settlement quickly began. The town was incorporated in October 1874, and became the county seat in 1877. Thomas Allen and Henry Gurdon Marquand, the president and vice-president respectively of the Cairo and Fulton, named the new town for William Hickling Prescott, the distinguished historian from Boston and a man whom they had both admired. In 1874, the Cairo and Fulton railroad was re-organized and became the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway. About 1915, the Iron Mountain merged with the Missouri Pacific. In 1980, the Union Pacific superseded the Missouri Pacific.

In 1890, a group of Prescott businessmen, in an attempt to stimulate growth, formed the Prescott and Northwestern (P & NW), a shortline railroad that continues to exist today. The Ozan Lumber Company, owned by the Bemis Family, came to Prescott from East Texas in the early 1890s and soon acquired the P&NW. This company and lumber interests along with agriculture would dominate Prescott's economy for decades. Prescott became one of the most important shipping points for timber, fruit, produce, ore and cotton coming from the back country between Texarkana and Little Rock. In the 1960s, Potlatch bought out the Ozan Lumber Company. The large Potlatch mill remains an important industry in Prescott to this day.

#### *Cemetery History*

The land on which De Ann Cemetery Historic Section stands was conveyed to the City of Prescott by P. C. Hamilton and his wife Martha H. Hamilton on April 3, 1880 (Deed Book G, Page 500). As it turned out, however, the Hamiltons did not have good title to property. It proved to be in the estate of W. W. Andrews, a real estate dealer from Washington, Arkansas, who had extensive

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interests in southwest Arkansas. Lots, blocks and drives had already been laid out, and people had purchased lots and begun burying when this title problem came to light. On January 17, 1882, Martha and Perry Hamilton purchased the tract from Benjamin W. Green, the administrator of the W. W. Andrews Estate (Book J, Pages 218-9). On July 5, 1917, Thomas and Amelia McRae conveyed the same land to the City of Prescott (Book 118, page 40). Despite these difficulties, the De Ann Cemetery Association was formed on September 14, 1906, with Mrs. J. C. Young as president and burials continued in the cemetery.

In 1910, M. L. Moore and Nat Martin conveyed land to the City of Prescott on the north side of the highway for the New Section. This section also had problems with lost deeds and encroaching boundary lines. Moore and Martin finally issued a new deed on November 8, 1916 (Deed Book 70, Page 174). Today the New White and Black Section are to the north of the highway. The cemetery land under consideration in this nomination is that to the south of the highway.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SELECTED PERSONS BURIED IN THE DE ANN CEMETERY HISTORIC SECTION

#### (WHITE SECTION)

##### *William E. Arnold, M.D. (1837-1923)*

Dr. Arnold was a younger brother of J. H. Arnold. He studied medicine at the Atlanta Medical College, graduating in 1861. During the Civil War, he enlisted in Company A, First Arkansas, as a private. Ultimately, Arnold became the assistant surgeon for the regiment. After the war, he returned to southwest Arkansas and married Mary McCollum in 1868. Dr. Arnold built up a large medical practice at Prescott. He was a Mason. He died on February 23, 1923. He specified in his will that his monument should not cost more than \$200.

##### *Horace Erastus Bemis (1868-1914)*

Member of a New England family that came to southwest Arkansas via Iowa and East Texas, H. E. Bemis formed an alliance between two influential and energetic families when he married Ethel McRae on November 14, 1900. The Bemis Family acquired the Prescott and Northwestern Railroad in the early 1890s and organized the Ozan Lumber Company to cut the virgin forests of southwest Arkansas. The Bemis Family soon had extensive interests that included land, timber, manufacturing, farming, banking and mining. The career of H. E. Bemis was cut short when he died suddenly on April 1, 1914.

##### *William J. Blake (1830-1905)*

W. J. Blake enlisted as a private in Co. I, 15th Regiment, at the beginning of the Civil War. He fought against Grant's advance in Tennessee in early 1862. After the Confederate defeat, he returned to Arkansas and became the Captain of Co. I, 1st Trans-Mississippi Regiment. He fought at Cane Hill, Prairie Grove and Helena where he was wounded and taken prisoner. He was held in prison camps until June 30, 1864, and then spent the last year of the war with General Cabell's Brigade in Texas, surrendering at Marshall. In the years after the war, Blake was a merchant in Prescott and active in politics as a conservative Democrat. He served as the county treasurer from 1885 to 1886. In Prescott, he was an alderman from 1882-89 and city treasurer from 1900-02. He was again serving as city treasurer at the time of his death in 1905.

##### *W. L. Bright (1825-1882)*

Born on August 3, 1825, in Marlboro County, South Carolina, William Lodwick Bright was the son of Godfrey Bright and his wife Sarah Easterling. He came to Arkansas early in the 1850s from Smith County, Mississippi, and had purchased land in Carouse Township, then Hempstead County, by 1859. He served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and was a prisoner of war at Vicksburg. At the close of Reconstruction, Bright served as the representative of Nevada County in the state legislature in 1875. He was sheriff from 1881 to 1882. He had married Elizabeth Franks (1827-1889), sometime in the late 1840s. In less than two years in the early 1880s, the Bright family lost four sons and the father in what must have been an epidemic of illness. All are buried inside a wrought iron enclosure with iron tags noting names and dates.



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### *James Osgood Andrew Bush (1854-1939)*

J.O.A. Bush was born in Pike County, Arkansas, on December 1, 1854. His father James R. Bush took an interest in politics and was successively a Whig, then a Republican, and a Unionist during the Civil War. He refused to serve in the war and supplied both armies with his farm produce. Remarkably, these dangerous practices did not result in his death for he survived the war.

James Bush grew up on the farm and was largely self-educated. He married in 1874, but his wife died two years later. He farmed, taught school and became involved in grassroots politics, embracing the principles of the Greenback Party. He was elected Circuit and County Clerk in 1884 and purchased the *Pike County Sentinel* in 1885. In 1889, he married again, sold his newspaper and began to study law. In 1891, Bush was present at the founding of the People's or Populist Party at Cincinnati, Ohio. He then moved to Prescott to organize the young People's Party and established the *People's Tribune*—a political newspaper. He also undertook a speaking tour around the county where he debated Congressman T. C. McRae. He attended all the national Populist conventions in 1892, 1894 and 1896. He was elected as a Populist to the Arkansas Legislature in 1896 and served in 1897.

Bush applied to practice law in 1898, sold his paper and began to pursue a legal career. His second wife had died in 1893, leaving him with a son Dexter from this marriage. In 1895, he married his third wife, Alice Hawkins Bush (1869-1956). She is buried beside him. After 1908, Bush, like many other Populists, joined the Democratic Party. He built up a successful law practice, was a very active participant in the affairs of the Methodist Church from the local to state and national levels, helped pass the state "Anti-Evolution Law" and actively supported the Temperance Movement. He died on January 29, 1939.

### *Jeremiah Greenleaf Carrington (1841-1920)*

The Carrington Family came to Hempstead County, Arkansas, around 1860. During the Civil War, J. G. did not enlist in the Confederate Army. He drove a stagecoach from Washington to El Dorado. Carrington served as an alderman in 1891 and 1896. He was elected sexton of the De Ann Cemetery in 1917. He was also a Mason. He died at home on July 9, 1920.

### *Henry H. Cooper (1871)*

This child was born on December 17, 1871, and died the next day. This grave is the first burial in the De Ann Cemetery Historic Section. The baby was the son of W. H. Cooper, a native of Georgia, and his wife Isis, a native of Indiana. In the 1880 census, the family was still in Prescott. The father was a railroad hand.

### *George F. Cress (1869-1959)*

Born on March 27, 1869, in the Midwest, George Cress was the son of Jeremiah and Julia Thomas Cress. He and A. H. Smith, his brother-in-law, started the Prescott Ice Company in 1909. In 1911, they installed a modern bottling plant and an ice cream manufacturing department the next year. They produced pure artificial ice, bottled drinks and plain and fancy ice creams. Their products included Eskimo Pies, Orange Crush and Arkola—an Arkansas soft drink. They delivered their products by truck to the surrounding area. Cress was president of the company. Cress also owned the phone company in Prescott. In the late 1930s, Cress and his wife moved to Little Rock. Lillian T. Cress (1876-1957) died on February 3, 1957. Her husband died on January 1, 1959. Both were buried at De Ann where relatives had been interred many years before.

### *John Delahoyde (1830-1896)*

John Delahoyde moved his family from Iowa to Prescott in 1881. He had an interest with J. A. Ansley, the Greenbacker/Union Labor party leader, in the publication of the *Prescott Dispatch*, a third-party newspaper. He was an attorney and abstractor, land agent for the Iron Mountain Railroad and an officer in the Prescott and Northwestern Railroad when it was chartered in October 1890. He died on January 1, 1896.

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*Franklin Gee (1854-1941)*

Born on October 1, 1854, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, E. F. Gee was the son of John H. and Rachel Cobb Gee. He came to Arkansas with his family in the 1850s and was in Prescott as a young man in the earliest days of the town's existence. He graduated from Robinson Business College in Memphis, Tennessee, and in 1876, moved to Prescott and went into the mercantile business. He was a member of the Gee Bros. firm for many years. On January 26, 1881, he married Rena Woodberry of Prescott. He also served as an alderman in 1881. On January 5, 1889, the Prescott Alliance Wheel Exchange, with the objective to assist farmers, was organized to buy and sell goods and manufacture wagons, buggies and farm equipment. Gee was the secretary. Later, he was a contractor and built many buildings in Prescott, 37 of which were still standing at the time of his death in 1941. Gee Street in Prescott is named for the members of this family.

*Mills Graffo (1936-1943)*

Born on April 20, 1936, Mills Graffo was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Baby Graffo, members of a band of Gypsies. The seven-year-old child became ill and was a patient at the Cora Donnell Hospital in Prescott. The Prescott paper reported that the birth of a blonde male child was regarded as a good omen by the Gypsies. If the child died, the band would be cursed. The band anxiously awaited news of the child's welfare. The members of the band spoke broken English and were largely of the Catholic faith. The boy died on March 10, 1943. The name on his tombstone is "Miller Groffo".

*Martin White Greeson (1866-1949)*

M. W. Greeson was born on November 7, 1866, on a farm near Clinton, Arkansas, the son of Hartwell and Louisa Greeson, natives of Tennessee. In 1867, the family moved into Clinton where M. W. Greeson was reared and educated at the Clinton Academy. He graduated from the Academy in 1884 and began a teaching career. He obtained a law degree from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, graduating in 1888. He was licensed to practice in state courts in Arkansas and came to Prescott in November 1888, joining the firm of Atkinson and Tompkins. After Atkinson and Tompkins went on to other opportunities, Greeson practiced alone for four years until 1900. Over the next few years, he had practices with Henry B. McKenzie and Horace E. Rouse. However, he later left the law practice in order to pursue other interests, such as farming, operating a railroad from Nashville to Murfreesboro, Arkansas, and oil and gas operations. He was instrumental in the opening of the Nevada County oil field.

During these years, Greeson was also busy with civic affairs. He was a Prescott alderman from 1898-99 and again from 1906-12. He also served four years as mayor from 1895-96 and from 1900-01. Greeson put a great deal of time and energy into municipal matters. He championed the first concrete sidewalks for Prescott. He did the bulk of the work in creating an improvement district for a municipal water and light plant. Prescott had electricity and city water as early as 1898. In 1911, he led in the formation of another improvement district for the installation of the city's sanitary sewer system. R. P. Hamby, Prescott's long-time mayor (1912-1948) called Greeson "one of our most public spirited citizens." Greeson also built the first opera house and the first sanitarium in Prescott. He was a member of the Arkansas State Flood Control Commission and urged the development of the Little Missouri Watershed, the conservation of the soils and the control of water for beneficial purposes. In 1950, the Corps of Engineers built Narrows Dam and Lake Greeson in Pike County to control flooding and to generate electricity, obviously naming the lake after Martin Greeson.

He was a Mason, took all of the York Rite Masonry, was Grand Master of Arkansas and, at the time of his death was senior living Past Grand Master of the state. He died on November 16, 1949.

*C. C. Hamby (1851-1921)*

Hamby was born in Calhoun County, Mississippi, on September 14, 1851. He left home at nineteen to work as a brakeman on the Mississippi Central Railroad and used the savings from his salary to attend school. He came to Logan County, Arkansas, in 1872. He farmed, taught school and studied law at night over the next several years. He opened a law practice at Prescott in October 1878 and became active in local politics. He served as an alderman in Prescott in 1882 and as one of the commissioners when the

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first Nevada County Courthouse was erected in 1884. Early in 1886, he moved to Texarkana but later returned to Prescott. In 1890, he was elected to the state senate for the counties of Nevada and Hempstead. He was elected lieutenant governor at the end of the 1891 session. When Governor Eagle fell ill in the summer of 1892, Hamby served as governor of Arkansas for four months. He chaired the Judiciary Committee in the Senate and the Democratic Convention at Hot Springs in 1904. He was again a Prescott alderman in 1900 as well as a member of the school board in the early 1900s. Hamby was a very successful criminal lawyer, had an interest in the Citizens Bank in Prescott, participated in the Masons at the state level and was a Knight Templar. He was also an advocate of education and served as a trustee of the State University for twelve years. He was married three times. In 1907, C. C. Hamby commissioned architect Charles Thompson to build a large home for him in Prescott, which still stands. C. C. Hamby died on January 31, 1921.

### *Leonard C. Hamby (1891-1918)*

Born on June 25, 1891, Leonard Hamby was the son of C. C. Hamby and his third wife Bettie Wells Hamby. Leonard joined the army sometime in early 1918 and trained at Camp Pike, Arkansas. Later, he moved to Chicago with his unit. He became critically ill, and his family was notified by telegraph of the seriousness of his condition. His mother rushed to Chicago but arrived a few hours after his death on October 14, 1918. Leonard Hamby may have been a victim of the Great Spanish Influenza Pandemic that killed twenty million people worldwide in 1918 and 1919. Though he was not involved in combat, he was the first soldier from Nevada County to die while serving in the armed forces during World War I and was so honored. Acting Mayor C. L. Tompkins issued a proclamation asking businesses in Prescott to close during his funeral.

### *Martha H. Hamilton (1836-1881)*

Born on August 21, 1836, Martha Daniels was a native of Alabama. She married Perry C. Hamilton in Itawamba County, Mississippi, on August 5, 1852. A few years later, they came to Arkansas and were early residents of Prescott. She and her husband gave the land for De Ann Cemetery. Mrs. Hamilton died on January 13, 1881.

### *Perry Clark Hamilton (1832-1908)*

Born on February 18, 1832, in Jackson County, Alabama, P. C. Hamilton was the son of Russel Hamilton and Margaret Green, natives of North Carolina. He married in 1852 in Mississippi and moved to Hempstead County, Arkansas, in 1857, settling near present-day Emmet. On November 1, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles and took part in the Battle of Pea Ridge. His regiment then went east and was involved in operations in Kentucky and Tennessee. He was reportedly discharged at Cumberland Gap, Virginia, on October 24, 1862, on account of being too old for military service. He returned to Hempstead County and established a farm near Wallaceburg in northeastern Hempstead County. He later became a merchant in partnership with Brad Scott and was an early citizen of Prescott. He moved his store from Wallaceburg to Prescott in 1873, and his name headed the list of petitioners for the incorporation of the town of Prescott, dated October 6, 1874. In 1880, he and his wife gave the land to the City of Prescott to establish De Ann Cemetery. They reserved the right to select cemetery lots for themselves and their family. His first wife died not long afterwards. After the death of his first wife, he married Mary Virginia Brooks. He died on January 16, 1908, and is buried in De Ann with his first wife.

### *Dora L. Harrell (1862-1933)*

Born on May 3, 1862, at High Point, North Carolina, Dora Thornton was the daughter of Captain and Mrs. S. C. Thornton. The family moved to Indiana after the Civil War. On July 31, 1881, she married Phillip S. Harrell, and they moved to early Prescott on January 29, 1885. Harrell was one of the organizers of the De Ann Cemetery Association and on September 14, 1906, was elected the first vice-president of the Association.

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*Henry Bonner McKenzie (1876-1929)*

Born on September 17, 1876, H. B. McKenzie came to Prescott as a boy and lived there for the last thirty-seven years of his life. He began his law practice there in 1900 and was involved in local politics. He was elected alderman in 1903 and qualified but resigned his seat to serve as city recorder from 1903-4. He served in the Arkansas Senate from 1907-11. In the Senate, he took an important part in the anti-cigarette law. In 1907, he started *The Nevada News*, a weekly newspaper, and, in 1908, *The Prescott Daily News*. During the 1920s, he edited and published *Candid Opinion*, a monthly magazine. He also wrote a weekly essay for the editorial page of the *Arkansas Gazette*. A supporter of education, he served on the Prescott School Board for six years and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas. He was also a member of the Arkansas History Commission. He died in the early afternoon of December 4, 1929, at the age of fifty-two.

*Amelia A. White McRae (1855-1947)*

Born on October 6, 1855, in Decatur, Alabama, Amelia Ann White was the oldest child of William R. White and his wife Mary Jane Clarke. She moved to Arkansas with her parents when she was four. On December 17, 1874, she married Thomas Chipman McRae at Rosston, Arkansas, then the county seat of Nevada County. They moved to Prescott in 1877 where she resided at her home "The Oaks" on East Main Street until her death. She was First Lady of Arkansas from 1921 to 1925. Amelia McRae died on December 4, 1947. The schools in Prescott closed for her funeral.

*Thomas Chipman McRae (1851-1929)*

Born on December 21, 1851, at Mount Holly, Arkansas, Thomas Chipman McRae was the son of Duncan L. McRae and his wife Mary Ann Chipman. By age 11, Thomas was served briefly as a courier for the Confederate troops stationed at Washington, Arkansas.

He attended private schools at Shady Grove, Mount Holly and Falcon for a year. He worked as a store clerk in Shreveport, Louisiana, for a year and then attended Soule Business College in New Orleans in 1870-71. In the fall of 1871, he entered the law school at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, and graduated the following year with an LL. B. He was admitted to the Arkansas Bar in January 1873 and opened a law office at Rosston, Arkansas, then the county seat of the newly-formed Nevada County. He married Amelia Ann White, the county clerk's daughter, on December 17, 1874.

In 1877, the county seat moved to the new railroad town of Prescott, and the young lawyer relocated his growing family there too. They constructed "The Oaks" which would be focus of family activity for the next half century. McRae's political career also began in this period. In 1877, he was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives as a Democrat, the youngest member of the body. In 1879, he served as a Prescott alderman and also took over for a portion of that year as city recorder. In addition to city government, he was active in the state Democratic Party. In 1884, he ran for and was elected over four opponents as U. S. Representative from Arkansas's Third Congressional District. He served his 16-county district well for the next 18 years.

McRae resigned from office in 1903 and returned to Prescott. He practiced law and then went into banking, purchasing the Bank of Prescott in 1905. His success in banking led to his being elected President of the Arkansas Bankers Association in 1909. He worked to pass legislation regulating the Arkansas banking system and supported legislation creating the Federal Reserve System. During this period, McRae also maintained an active law practice with Charles H. and W. V. Tompkins. In 1917, he was elected president of the Arkansas Bar Association and also served in the constitutional convention that drew up a new state constitution embracing many reform issues of the Progressive period; however, it was rejected by the electorate in 1918.

In 1920, McRae ran for governor, won over a field of eight other candidates in the Democratic Primary and handily defeated weak Republican opposition in the November general election. In his first term, he found most of his desired reforms thwarted by a balky legislature. He defeated a Ku Klux Klan-backed candidate for his second term and had some success with his programs. McRae's two terms were to have a great impact on the state. Most notably, he reformed the highway-construction program, instituted a new approach to taxation and brought the first infusion of state funds into the school system.



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McRae was satisfied with his achievements as governor. In a racist era, he was also sympathetic to the plight of the Black population in Arkansas. He established a tuberculosis sanatorium in Arkansas for Blacks, and he and his wife had personally given the land for the Black school and for a Black park in Prescott years before he became governor. At the conclusion of his term in 1925, McRae returned to Prescott to pursue his banking and legal interests until his death on June 2, 1929, at the age of 78.

### *Anders Monson (1841-1936)*

Born in Herbè, Sweden, on March 28, 1841, Anders Monson came to the United States with his music master. At first, he located in Ludington, Michigan. From there he went to Mississippi where he married. In 1872, he came to Arkansas and located at Moscow just outside present-day Prescott. At Moscow, he operated a tannery, sold books and gave music lessons. When the Cairo and Fulton Railroad was built nearby and Prescott was laid out, he moved to the new town and was one of the town's first citizens. He built the first two-story building in town on East First Street. He operated a shoe and harness shop and mercantile business in his building. He signed the petition requesting incorporation of the City of Prescott from the county supervisors in 1874. In 1889, he went into the music business, opening a store where he sold musical instruments and musical instruction books. He died in 1936, and to honor his life, the Town Council named a street after him.

### *Dan Pittman (1878-1941)*

Born in Prescott on December 18, 1878, Dan Pittman was the son of John Marshall Pittman and his wife Jennie Carr. He was educated at the University of Arkansas and Eastman Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York. He entered his father's hardware and furniture business with his brother Charles. After the father's death in 1919, the sons assumed the management of Prescott Hardware, the largest establishment of its kind in southwest Arkansas. It also included a large cotton warehouse and an undertaking concern. On November 24, 1901, he married May McDaniel of Prescott, and they had three children. Pittman was active in local affairs. He was a Prescott alderman from 1903-1912, from 1922-1927 and from 1929-1941 and city recorder in 1903. He served as chairman of the Democratic County Central Committee for many years and was a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce. At the time of his death, he was Chairman of the Selective Service Board at the appointment of President Roosevelt. He died at his home on June 14, 1941.

### *Jennie Carr Pittman (1856-1938)*

Born in Fredonia, Alabama, on December 26, 1856, Jennie Mildred Carr (she was christened Mildred Jane but later called Jennie Mildred) was the daughter of Charles Turner Carr and his second wife Susan Wesley Capehart Carr. In 1858, her parents moved to Falcon, now in Nevada County, where she attended school. On her birthday in 1875, she married John Marshall Pittman in a double wedding ceremony in which her sister Fannie married W. A. Bright, a Prescott merchant. In March 1876, the young couple moved to Prescott where they spent the rest of their lives. In 1892, Mrs. Pittman joined the Prescott Women's Christian Temperance Union and became its most active member for the next 46 years. She served as corresponding secretary and then president of the local Union and in 1899 became corresponding secretary of the State Union. She was president of the State Union from 1924 to 1929 and editor of the Union's state paper *The Arkansas White Ribboner* from 1921 to 1937. She also attended many state, and three world, Union conventions in the United States and abroad. Mrs. Pittman was also an advocate of movements to better churches and schools. She was the first president of the Prescott School Improvement Association (now PTA). Social clubs such as the Self-Culture Club, the Shakespearean and others frequently met at her home. She died at the home of her daughter in Prescott on November 6, 1938, after a long illness.

### *John Marshall Pittman (1853-1919)*

Born on February 2, 1853, on a farm in Columbia County, Arkansas (other sources give Lewisville, Arkansas as his place of birth), John Marshall Pittman was the second son of Fortunatus Pittman and his wife Ellen Elizabeth Eskridge. He was educated at the academy in Falcon, Arkansas, where he met his future wife. He spent his early life on the farm; taught school and went to Hope to clerk in a general mercantile store for a short time at the age of 20. He soon went into a partnership with his brother-in-law W. A. Bright and moved to Prescott. He served as a Prescott alderman in 1880 and 1886. From 1886-1888, he served as the Nevada

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County judge. In 1890, he founded the Prescott Hardware Company, one of the most successful businesses in Prescott. At the time of his death, his company was the largest retail hardware store in Arkansas with branches in Gurdon and Blevins. He was one of the organizers of the Arkansas Retail Hardware Association and its first president. He died in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on August 31, 1919.

### *Charles E. Shankle (1870-1934)*

Born in Camden in 1870, C. E. Shankle came to Prescott in January 1881. He began his career as a newspaper man in the newspaper office operated by W. B. and E. E. White, the founders of the *Nevada County Picayune*. He worked with Fred W. Alsopp, a local newspaper man who would go on to become well-known as the business manager of the *Arkansas Gazette*. On May 1, 1892, Shankle purchased the *Picayune* from J. W. Gardner who had moved to Texarkana. After a 1895 fire destroyed the *Picayune* building, Shankle then started the *Prescott Paragraph*, but suspended operations in November 1896. He was connected with numerous papers in the region until 1905 when he founded *The Nevada News*, a weekly, with H. B. McKenzie. He also worked for the *Camden Beacon* for several years and Arkadelphia's *The Southern Standard* for 20 years. He was known as one of the best newspapermen in the state and as an able writer. He married Lida Potts of Prescott on February 18, 1896. He also served as an alderman in Prescott in 1892 and in 1895-1898. He died in Prescott at the home of his sister Mrs. R. L. Blakely on May 26, 1934.

### *W. L. Webb (1846-1893)*

Born on April 4, 1846, William L. Webb was a native of Arkansas. He was living in Ouachita County when he married Louisa J. Ross on March 10, 1872. Webb was a very early resident of Prescott and the first mayor, serving in 1876. After his tenure as mayor, he remained active in city government and served as an alderman in 1877, 1884 and 1890-91. He died at Prescott on May 30, 1893.

### (BLACK SECTION)

### *Guss "Rastus" Ansley (1875-1937)*

Born in Arkansas in 1875, Guss Ansley was the son of Cyrus Ansley and probably a descendant of slaves belonging to William Strain Ansley who migrated from South Carolina to then Ouachita County, Arkansas, in the late 1850s. Guss Ansley was a businessman and immensely popular in Prescott. He was known as the "Tamale King" of Prescott. He advertised in the local paper and had a telephone to receive orders at a time when many people, regardless of race, did not have a telephone. He sold tamales in a different section of Prescott each day and advertised his schedule. Ansley carried his tamales in an insulated box suspended from a shoulder strap. As he moved through Prescott's neighborhoods on foot, he blew a whistle to announce his presence, and his customers rushed out to buy the hot tamales.

Ansley was such a good cook that the Ku Klux Klan asked him to join. They realized they needed to serve food at their gatherings, and Ansley was the logical choice to prepare the meals. Local legend has it that he did join. Though this was an era of virulent racism, the Prescott KKK was probably more akin to a social club at this particular time, and less akin to violent night rides. In an era when black obituaries did not normally appear in white newspapers, Rastus Ansley's illness was front page news in the Prescott paper. He died at his home on West Elm in Prescott on December 16, 1937. His obituary noted that white friends would be welcomed at the funeral, and it also mentioned that the service would not be too long.

### *Annie L. Boyd (1868-1926)*

Born on August 27, 1868, Annie Dixon was the daughter of parents who were natives of North Carolina. Little is known of her early life. She was literate and married S. T. Boyd, who was nine years her senior, in 1887. They had three children. Their family was at the pinnacle of the Black community in Prescott. She died on May 2, 1926.



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### *S.T. Boyd (1859-1927)*

Born on September 11, 1859, Shadrick T. Boyd was a native of Virginia as were his parents. Little is known of his early life. Mention of him first appears in the Prescott newspapers in the mid to late 1880s. He was a popular and capable young schoolteacher and served as the umpire in local baseball games. He was principal for a time at a Black high school in Arkadelphia that was later moved to North Little Rock and became Shorter College. When the McRae School was built in 1908, he became the first principal.

Boyd was active in the Republican Party. He was elected secretary of the local party and attended state conventions as a delegate. In this era, Blacks were largely Republican loyalists. The Republicans were the party of Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator. S. T. Boyd was no exception. He served as city recorder of Prescott in 1889. He did, however, refuse the job of postmaster at Prescott, a political patronage plum, because he deemed it too dangerous to accept.

Boyd participated in the Prince Hall Masons and served as the Fifth Grand Master of Arkansas from 1905 to 1910. He was quite successful in selling Masonic insurance and was even able to purchase an apartment in Chicago. He also owned a comfortable home in Prescott free and clear. During World War I, Boyd took a leading role in selling war bonds in Prescott and was recognized for his efforts. Always an imposing man, he was much respected in Prescott as well as around the state despite the virulent racism prevalent in this era.

Boyd died at his daughter's home in Little Rock during the Christmas holidays in 1927. Former Governor McRae, with whom he had had a cordial relationship for years and who was also his attorney, eulogized him at his funeral which was widely attended by black leaders from around the state. He was the leading member of the Black community in Prescott in this era and one of the leading members of the Black community in Arkansas.

### *John Carl Hughey (1870-1927)*

John Carl Hughey was a successful black businessman in Prescott. He was a carpenter and builder of houses. He had attained some education and was literate. At the time of his death on October 3, 1927, he had accumulated a sizable estate. He owned a home on four lots in the Brad Scott Addition to the city and had personal property worth nearly \$1,300. The furnishings in his home suggest a comfortable lifestyle. They included a Whitney upright piano and stool, an oak library table, a bust of Shakespeare, bric-a-brac and books as well as his carpenter's tools. Masonic burial insurance paid for his funeral. The family could afford respectable tombstones and a family plot with coping, the only such example in the Old Black Section.

### *G. W. Lowdermilk (1862-1905)*

Born on July 5, 1862, George Lowdermilk was a native of Arkansas. He may have been born a slave to the Lowdermilk family that lived in Hempstead and Nevada Counties. In 1880, he was living in Missouri Township, Prescott with his twenty-one-year-old wife Rose and a baby son. He was a laborer. He must have also been involved in local politics and a member of the Republican Party. He served as an alderman in Prescott in 1889 before Blacks were disfranchised. He died on November 30, 1905.

### *Rose Etta Lowdermilk (1870-1935)*

In the 1910 census, Rose Lowdermilk gave her age as fifty-two. She was a native of South Carolina and mulatto in color. A widow, she had borne twelve children and had seven living, six of them lived with her. Though she must have been poor, she owned her own home free and clear and worked as a laundress on her own account. Over time, her children either died or moved away. As Mrs. Lowdermilk's health declined, her daughter took her to Wisconsin where she lived to seek treatment for her. Rose Lowdermilk died in Prescott in 1935. A nice monument marks her grave, and she was able to leave a small estate for her children despite the difficulties of her earlier life.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

De Ann Cemetery Historic Section is the final resting place for the early settlers of Prescott and Nevada County, and is significant to the history of the town and county. Those buried at De Ann Cemetery Historic Section include entrepreneurs, farmers, Civil War survivors, teachers and newspaper men. Their combined experience helped create a viable and sustainable community. The De Ann Cemetery Historic Section, located in Prescott, Nevada County, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the early settlement of Prescott and Nevada County. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as a fine example of 19th and 20th century funerary art. It is eligible for inclusion under **Criteria Consideration D** as a cemetery.

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Lloyd, Peggy S. "The Howard County Race Riot of 1883," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 49 (Winter 2000): 353-87.

### Census

1870 United States Census, Columbia County, Arkansas.  
1880 United States Census, Columbia County, Arkansas.  
1910 United States Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas.  
1920 United States Census, Hempstead County, Arkansas.  
1880 United States Census, Nevada County, Arkansas.  
1900 United States Census, Nevada County, Arkansas.  
1910 United States Census, Nevada County, Arkansas.  
1920 United States Census, Nevada County, Arkansas.

### Newspapers

Arkansas Dispatch  
Arkansas Gazette  
Hope Star  
Nevada County Picayune  
Nevada News  
Prescott Daily News  
Star of Hope

Court Records, Office of the Circuit Clerk, Nevada County Courthouse, Prescott, Arkansas.

Deed Records, Office of the Circuit Clerk, Nevada County Courthouse, Prescott, Arkansas.

Marriage Records, Office of the County Clerk, Nevada County Courthouse, Prescott, Arkansas.

Military Discharge Records, Office of the Circuit Clerk, Nevada County Courthouse, Prescott, Arkansas.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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*Probate Records*, Office of the County Clerk, Nevada County Courthouse, Prescott, Arkansas.

*Tax Records*, Office of the County Clerk, Hempstead County Courthouse, Hope, Arkansas.

*Tax Records*, Office of the County Clerk, Nevada County Courthouse, Prescott, Arkansas.

### Websites and Databases

[Heritagequest.com](http://Heritagequest.com)

<http://bioguid.congress.gov>

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~donegaleire/Abb.html>

<http://members.aol.com/TombView/symbol2.html>

[www.alsirat.com/symbols/index.html](http://www.alsirat.com/symbols/index.html)

[www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/abho/bib/newspaper.html](http://www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/abho/bib/newspaper.html)

[www.depotmuseum.org](http://www.depotmuseum.org)

[www.dksdesigns.net/Symbolism.html](http://www.dksdesigns.net/Symbolism.html)

[www.gardner-webb.edu/essays/05June-Hobbs.htm](http://www.gardner-webb.edu/essays/05June-Hobbs.htm)

[www.glorerecords.blm.gov/](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/)

[www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.htm](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.htm)

[www.phoenixmasonry.org/masonicmuseum/fraternalism/fraternalism\\_in\\_america.htm](http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/masonicmuseum/fraternalism/fraternalism_in_america.htm)

[www.saveourcemeteries.org](http://www.saveourcemeteries.org)

[www.siftingsherald.com/articles/2004/01/30/obituaries/obituaries.txt](http://www.siftingsherald.com/articles/2004/01/30/obituaries/obituaries.txt)

[www.vintageviews.org/vv-tl/pagesCem-Symbolism.htm](http://www.vintageviews.org/vv-tl/pagesCem-Symbolism.htm)

### Resource Persons

Bain, Dick. E-mails to the author, December 6 and 15, 2004; conversation with the author, December 21, 2004.

Dickinson, Samuel Dorris. Conversations with the author, May-August, 2004.

Haltom, Elizabeth Cornish. Conversations with the author, May-August, 2004.

Stockton, Frank. Conversations with the author, May-August, 2004.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Vansickle, John. Telephone conversation with the author, August, 2004.

White, Claudie. Conversations with the author, May-August, 2004.

### Other

*Cornish Funeral Home Records, 1909-1983.* Microfilm, 10 rolls. Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Hamilton, Winnie H. (Mrs. Joe. R.), comp. *Personal History: Nevada County, Arkansas.* vol. 1. Unpublished typescript, 1951. Collections of the Nevada County Depot and Museum, Prescott, Arkansas.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Foot Prints, Nevada County, Arkansas.* vol. 2. Unpublished collection of obituaries and newsclips from 1947-1959. Genealogy Room, Prescott/Nevada County Library and Educational Facility, Prescott, Arkansas.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Nevada County, Arkansas Records.* Unpublished typescript, 1945. Collections of the Nevada County Depot and Museum, Prescott, Arkansas.

"Perry C. Hamilton Folder." Unpublished typescript, nd. Genealogy Room, Prescott/Nevada County Library and Educational Facility, Prescott, Arkansas.



De Ann Cemetery Historic Section  
Name of Property

Nevada County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.132 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 463692 3741013  
Zone Easting Northing  
2

3  
Zone Easting Northing  
4  
☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edited by Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date January 6, 2005  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874  
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Prescott  
street & number 118 W. Elm telephone 870-887-1022  
city or town Prescott state Arkansas zip code 71857

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commence at a stake 30 feet north of the corner stake at the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 8 in Township 11 South Range 22 West and run due East for two hundred yards, thence due north for one hundred yards, thence due West two hundred yards, thence due south one hundred yards to place of beginning forming an oblong.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The selected boundary includes all the property historically associated with the Old Section of De Ann Cemetery.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY De Ann Cemetery Historic Section  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Nevada

DATE RECEIVED: 4/18/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/17/05  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/01/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/01/05  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000498

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/1/05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





1. DeAnn Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHPP
6. Entry gate, looking South
7. #1





1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHDP
6. Overview of white section, looking southwest
7. #2







1. De Ann cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHPP
6. Overview of black section, looking Southeast
7. #3





1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHDP
6. Overview of historic black & white sections,  
looking west
7. #4







1. De Ann cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampore
4. January 2005
5. AHPP
6. Hamby Family Plot, looking northeast
7. #5







1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHPP
6. Dr. William Arnold monument, looking  
west
7. #6





ahopde

IT IS THE LORD. LET HIM DO  
WHAT SEEMETH HIM GOOD.  
IN  
TRAY WILL BE DONE

ST. LOUIS  
ST. LOUIS



1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHDP
6. Grave marker, looking east
7. #7







1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHPD
6. Grave marker, looking east
7. #48





EDMUND  
STURGIS  
BORN  
OCT. 10, 1825  
DIED  
APR. 19, 1912

FLORA E.  
STURGIS  
BORN  
MAY 16, 1853  
DIED  
JULY 19, 1912

Father into thy hands we commend our spirit

STOCKTON



1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, Ariz
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AAPP
6. Surgis monument looking west
7. #9



McRAE



1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHPP
6. McRae monument, looking north
7. #10

BEMIS





1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHPP
6. Bemis monument, looking east
7. #11



*Dan Putman.*

DEC. 18, 1878

JUNE 14, 1941



1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHPP
6. Dan Pittman marker, looking west
7. #12







1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHPD
6. Delahoyde monument, looking northeast
7. #13



GREESON

MITCHELL

MARTIN W. GREESON  
NOV. 7, 1866  
NOV. 16, 1949



1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampor
4. January 2005
5. AHPP
6. Martin Green marker, looking east
7. #14



NEY AVER

AUG. 9. 1872

NOV. 9. 1922

In Heaven there is one angel more.

AVER



1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampore
4. January 2005
5. AATP
6. Sney Avery marker, looking east
7. #15



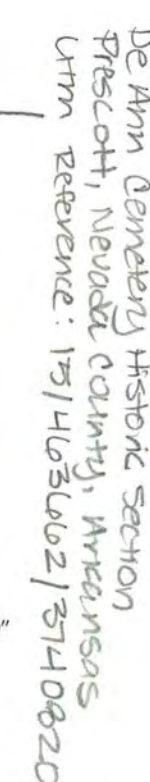
ANNIE M.  
WILLIAMS  
DEC 24 1864  
APR 22 1922

Rest, mother, rest in  
quiet sleep.  
While friends in sorrow  
o'er thee weep



1. De Ann Cemetery Historic Section
2. Nevada County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. January 2005
5. AHPP
6. Annie Williams monument, looking  
last
7. #16





AMS 7351 IV SW-SERIES V884





## The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



### Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building

323 Center Street

Little Rock, AR 72201

(501)324-9880

fax: (501)324-9184

tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail:

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org)

April 6, 2005

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005



RE: De Ann Cemetery Historic Section; Prescott, Nevada County

Dear Carol,

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:sj

Enclosure

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