

Written In Stone

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Green Street Church Graveyards – Part IV

The Green Street AME Zion Church Cemeteries encompass three separate plots of land, according to community historian, Mr. Johnny Mack Grace. Ms. Linda Broadus completed her study of the 2nd cemetery across the road from the church with the Grace Family lineage. She saw the graves of those in this family, many of them close together, in death as they were in life. Ulla McKinley Grace, born 11 April 1911 along with his wife, Bessie Stallworth Grace; and their children, James Earl Grace, John Lee Grace, Sr., and Angie Grace Booker. Ulla's brother, John Henry Grace is interred nearby. The second row in this cemetery is filled with many Grace family members, including the oldest found to be of David Augustus Grace, born 28 Jun 1919 and died 5 Aug 1940—his epitaph reads 'none knew thee but to love thee'. There were several unmarked graves in this row, as well as throughout the entire cemetery, many children as well as adults.

Ms. Broadus saw where Tonie Lee and his wife, Virginia Cobb Lee were buried. Mrs. Lee was born 1873 and died in 1962. A son, Henry Cobb and son-in-law, Charlie Beasley were interred as well. Henry Cobb served in the Depot Brigade of WWI dying in 1960 with the son-in-law, Charlie born in 1910 and dying in 1960. A daughter of Tonie and Virginia, called Lizzie D., was born the 15th of Feb 1899 and died the 24th of June 1916, a mere 17 years of age.

Mixed in with the older tablets, headstones, slabs, are many newer granite markers etched with the names of descendants such as cousins, siblings, nieces and nephews that the deceased would never have known. These bring joy to those who visit and see that the legacy of their ancestors is carried on by another generation who would have loved to have been able to sit at their knee and hear the old stories.