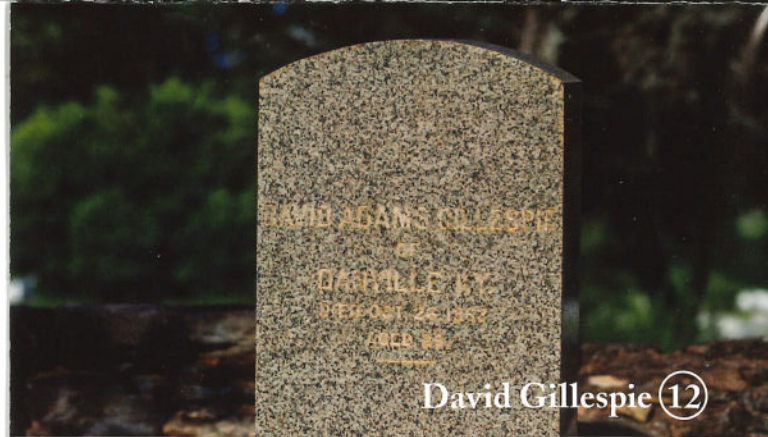
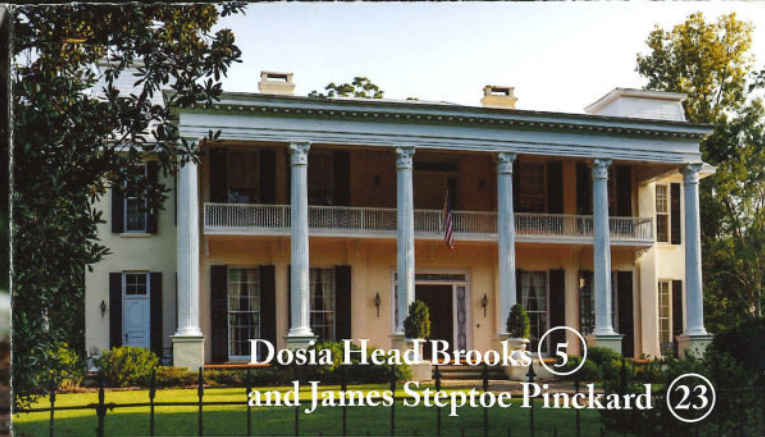




David Gillespie (12)



Dosia Head Brooks (5)  
and James Steptoe Pinckard (23)



Midnight Ride (32)

## Visitor Information

***Forsyth City Cemetery is open to the public from 7 am to 8 pm daily.***

### Rules of the cemetery

Forsyth City Cemetery is an active and working cemetery. Please be respectful of burials, cremations and those visiting loved ones. This includes the loud playing of radios and other sound generating devices. Photography in general is permitted. Professional photography, filming and videotaping (including any use of lights, stands or other equipment) must be approved prior to the event by the City Manager. Please take care not to remove, damage or destroy any shade tree, ornamental tree, shrubbery, or flowers in any cemetery or deface any tombstone or monument therein. Firearms and alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Advertising signs are prohibited. Pets are prohibited on cemetery grounds, with the exception of service animals. Parking on the grass is prohibited. Please park all vehicles on the right side of the road.

### Interested in learning more?

More stories of our dearly departed and the histories of the City of Forsyth and Monroe County can be found in the Monroe County Historical Society and Museum 126 E. Johnston St., Forsyth or by calling 478.994.5070.

Want to know more about the events and attractions in Forsyth and the surrounding area? Visit the Forsyth Convention & Visitors Bureau website: [www.forsythcvb.com](http://www.forsythcvb.com), or come by the Welcome Center at 68 North Lee St., Forsyth. 478.974.1460

Special thanks to all of those who gave generously of their time and talents to this project.

*Brought to you by the  
City of Forsyth Convention & Visitors Bureau and the  
Monroe County Historical Society.  
This project is supported in part by Georgia Humanities, in  
partnership with the  
Georgia Department of Economic Development through  
funding from the Georgia General Assembly.*

## Forsyth City Cemetery

to the United Daughters of the Confederacy today, this section is an integral part of the Forsyth City Cemetery and the history of the community.

After the Civil War, the Methodists sold their property to the Forsyth Presbyterians. After the Presbyterians built a newer church—moved once, but now standing at 63 North Jackson Street—the City of Forsyth took responsibility for the cemetery.

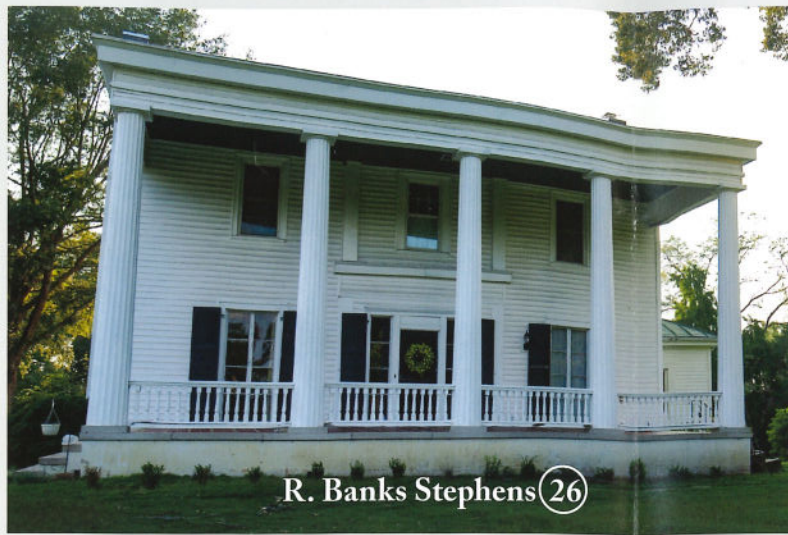
By the end of the 19th century, space in the cemetery had become limited. For additional burials, the City purchased the Quitman Guard muster grounds from the County. This section today is the part nearest South Lee Street. In the first half of the 20th century, the city acquired additional acreage from adjacent property owners, who were not always happy with the expansion of the cemetery.

By midcentury, private residences and the campus of Mary Persons High School hedged the Forsyth City Cemetery. Having no adjacent land for expansion, in 1962, the city council purchased property on the Barnesville Highway for Monroe Hills Memorial Garden.

Cemeteries are memorials to the past that offer a unique view of our history, culture, and way of life. Their existence adds much to our understanding of the history of Georgia and its people. Today's Forsyth City Cemetery began as a church burial yard. Through a patch work of land acquisitions it now encompasses roughly 26 acres.

In 1828, the Forsyth Methodists built a church with an adjacent lot for burials. The oldest marked graves in the cemetery from the 1820s suggest the church's original location.

During the Civil War, a square plot was used for the exclusive interment of soldiers who died in the local Confederate hospitals, many from the Atlanta Campaign. The burial ground was very convenient for the hospital operating out of the nearby Methodist church. In 1883, a fire destroyed the wooden markers first used to designate the war time graves in that section of the cemetery. For years the graves remained unmarked until the marble markers were installed. The Roster of Soldiers buried in Forsyth City Cemetery lists 299 from Alabama, Arkansas, a CSA at large, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Although legally belonging

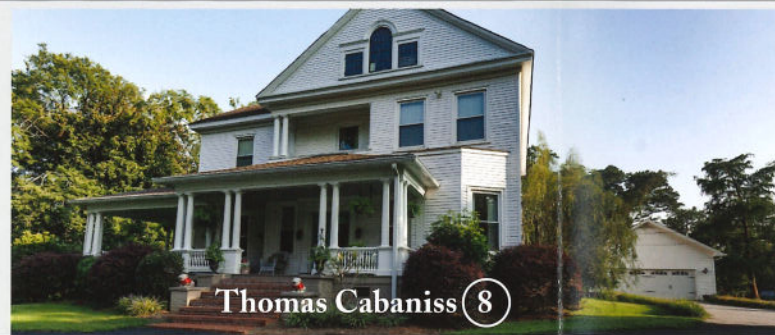


R. Banks Stephens (26)

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8

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SOUTH HARRIS STREET



Thomas Cabaniss (8)

KIMBALL STREET

NEWTON MEMORIAL DRIVE

CIVIL WAR SECTION

DRIVE

TON MEMORIAL

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| R14 |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 2   | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 24 | 26 | 28 | 30 | 32 | 34 |
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# CEMETERY GUIDE

## **1. Anderson, Only Patience Outlaw**

[1777-1864] She was a refugee in Forsyth during the Civil War and the wife of one of Tennessee's first Senators, the Revolutionary War soldier Joseph Anderson. When she died, her family interred her in an unknown space in the Methodist burial ground. More than 100 years later, her descendants erected a marker for her.

**2. Battle, Lee** [1867-1939] For 40 years, Battle, a factotum at Mercer University in Macon, endeared himself to students as an unofficial banker, an enthusiastic sports cheerleader, and confidant. Illiterate, according to Time magazine, he could "remember the name, class, hometown, fraternity, and room number of every man he had seen at Mercer."

**3. Berner, Robert L.** [1854-1922] A graduate of the University of Georgia in 1871, Berner studied law in Forsyth. A fierce critic of railroads, he brought suit against the Central of Georgia to force it to build a new depot in Forsyth. That depot still stands. After years as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, he ran for governor twice—and was defeated twice, once losing to "One-eyed Chandler." He practiced law with the future governor Hoke Smith in Atlanta—but when Berner died suddenly, his body was brought to Forsyth where he remains in an unmarked grave.

**4. Bramblett, Agnes Cochran** [1886-1979] Already a published poet when she married a Forsyth businessman, Agnes Cochran Bramblett came to Forsyth in 1908. In 1963 Governor Lester Maddox appointed her poet laureate of the state. As poet laureate, she promoted the study and writing of poetry in Georgia until her declining health compelled her to give up the post in 1973. In all, she published six volumes of poetry and one novel.

**9. Clarke, Jack** [1882-1967] A Renaissance man and a Johns Hopkins graduate, Clarke came to Forsyth in 1917 to be a minister of the Presbyterian Church. He later became editor of the local newspaper, the Advertiser, and then County School Superintendent. Opposed to the Klu Klux Klan, in 1927 he ran for mayor of Forsyth against the Klan candidate—and to his surprise was elected. He once said of himself, "Preacher by the grace of God; editor by necessity; mayor by accident."

**10. Collins, Charles E.** [1929-2012] Collins sought the Republican presidential nomination in 1996, but after a series of failures in the primaries, ran for the presidency of the United States as an independent candidate. His platform called for abolishing the Federal Reserve System and the Internal Revenue Service. Collins, a graduate of Mary Persons High School and the University of Georgia, spent years in Florida engaged in various successful business ventures before returning to live in Monroe County.

**11. Dorner, John** [1881-1952] This Austro-Hungarian immigrant while passing through Forsyth on a freight train saw the beautiful women at Bessie Tift College and decided to stop. He took up barbering and ran a shop on East Main Street for many years expanding its operation to include showers and dry cleaning. During World War II, Dorner discovered that he was an alien. Having voted in elections here, he said, "I felt like an American; I lived like an American—and paid taxes like an American." He remedied his legal status and became a naturalized citizen.

**12. Gillespie, David** [1837-1863] The son of a Kentucky family with divided loyalties at the time of the Civil War, Confederate Col. Gillespie was injured at Chickamauga and was sent to one of the hospitals in Forsyth. He died here, and the Proctor family allowed his widow to bury him in their family plot. Although destitute in 1863, his widow

**17. Holland, Tye** [1860-1929] "Big Landy" as they called him was sheriff in Monroe County for 18 years—and had the reputation for never carrying a gun. He campaigned by walking the county, sometimes spending the night with a family if he were too far away to return to Forsyth.

**18. Hubbard, William M.** [1865-1941] The dynamo behind education for African American children in Monroe County in the early 20th century, Hubbard first established a private school here in 1902. Later it became the Forsyth Normal and Industrial School. In 1931, as the State Teachers and Agricultural College, it became a unit of the University System of Georgia, whose regents closed it eight years later, making way for Fort Valley State College. Working with the local white establishment and actively soliciting funds from northern philanthropic boards, he ensured that the school survived from 1902 until 1939.

**19. Meek, Parker** [1914-1979] Dropping out of Mercer University after his sophomore year, Meek never gave up on his dream of becoming a physician. At 35, he graduated from the Medical College of Georgia and became a general practitioner in South Carolina. There he devised and patented a technique for treating burns still used in Europe, where it is known as "meeking."

**20. Mobley, Carlton** [1906-1981] At 25, the youngest member of the U.S. House of Representatives when he took the oath of office in 1932, Mobley found Washington uncongenial, preferring the executive and judicial branches of Georgia's state government. Identified with the Talmadge political machine, he was executive secretary to Governor Eugene Talmadge. Governor Herman Talmadge appointed him to the Georgia Supreme Court in 1974, where he served for 20 years.

**21. Newton, Agnes A.** [1897-1987] Forsyth's

**25. Sharp, Cyrus** [1837-1909] In 1862 Sharp lost his left arm at South Mountain in Maryland. For 34 years he served as Clerk of the Superior Court in Monroe County. When he first ran for office, the local newspaper said that the loss of Sharp's arm entitled him "to the gratitude of the people." One of three men in Monroe County history to have the name Cyrus Sharp, he was born in, lived in, and died in the family home on South Lee Street. Incidentally, his penmanship as clerk is impeccable.

**26. Stephens, R. Banks** [1858-1926] He once considered himself "a poor orphan boy," but he became one of Forsyth's premier financiers, having established the Bank of Forsyth at the corner of Lee and Johnston Streets in 1895. He then felt wealthy enough to throw coins in the streets for little boys to fight over when he drove his buggy through town. Three schools since 1895 have had his name.

**27. Sutton, Katherine Woodward Boulware** [1885-1974] Sutton came to Forsyth to teach Latin and history at the Forsyth High School and remained to become the first female member of the Board of Education and later County School Superintendent. She guided the county through the last years of the depression and toward consolidation of its rural schools. She has a school named for her here.

**28. Sweeney, Honora** [1800-1864] A veritable folk heroine, Honora Sweeney, according to the oft-repeated story, was a young woman who tenderly cared for the sick and wounded Confederate soldiers in the hospitals in Forsyth. While here, she tragically died and is the only woman buried among those whom she had cared for. In fact, Honora, a woman in her 60's during the Civil War, was a native of Ireland who had lived in Macon.

**29. Talmadge, Aaron** [1801-1879] A native of

**5. Brooks, Doria Head** [1864-1931] The daughter of the prosperous William H. Head, Doria married a self-made businessman, R.P. Brooks. Head gave his daughter an ante bellum home at 219 Brooklyn Avenue upon her marriage, and she furnished it elaborately with souvenirs of her international travels. As a leader in the Daughters of the American Revolution, she promoted reverence for the American flag by publishing a book on its history and etiquette. Her will provided that her house become a home for "gentlewomen," but a legal challenge resulted in the property's being auctioned to the highest bidder. Using a surrogate, her family bought the estate and it remains with them to this day.

**6. Burney, Thomas J.** [1836-1898] Highly esteemed among newspaper men in Georgia, Burney returned alone to his native Monroe County to die. The Jewish Atlanta pharmacist, Dr. Joseph Jacobs, noted for being the first to dispense Coca-Cola, erected the cross over Burney's grave. Crosses like this one are rare in this Protestant cemetery.

**7. Cabaniss, Elbridge G.** [1802-1872] A critical figure in the political history of the county, Cabaniss was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1865. The House of Representatives refused to seat him because of his support of the Confederacy, even though he had conflicts with the states' rights governor of Georgia, Joseph E. Brown. The two later made political amends and Brown secured for Cabaniss the position of comptroller of the Western and Atlantic Railroad.

**8. Cabaniss, Thomas B.** [1835-1915] Scion of a well-connected political family, he was elected as a Democrat to the 53rd U.S. Congress (1893-1895). President Cleveland then appointed him as a member of the Dawes Commission, which sought to change ownership of land among the "Five Civilized Tribes" from tribal to individual ownership. He served only briefly before returning to his Forsyth home at 200 West Main Street.

later remarried and then was financially able to mark Gillespie's grave with a stone provided by the Draddy Brothers in New York, designers of many of the monuments in Brooklyn's famous Green-Wood Cemetery.

**13. Goolsby, Scott** [1907-1931] To the distress of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Goolsby, they found his red roadster on the Spring Street bridge in Macon, after Scott vanished in the summer of 1927. They eventually located him in Texas, where he was selling chewing gum. His family and friends assumed that he suffered from amnesia. He showed recognition of his parents only once: when he lay dying in Texas from an automobile accident.

**14. Green, Dan** [1861-1916] An entrepreneur, Green brought to Forsyth its first telephone service in 1896, operating out of his jewelry store on North Jackson Street. Later he moved the telephone exchange to a two-story building on the square where the telephone operators always knew what was going on by eavesdropping on calls or looking outside their second-story perch. Green died when a friend failed to stop for an on-coming train at the brick depot.

**15. Hill, Anna Persons** [1904-1993] She was the first member of Mary Persons family to be buried in Forsyth—others were interred in the family plot in Fort Valley. Anna Persons Hill and her husband, savvy businessman Tharpe Hill, had no children. She left a bequest of \$3.6 million to Wesleyan College.

**16. Hill, Cora Anderson** [1896-1983] Cora Anderson came to Forsyth in 1927 as the second wife of the Forsyth banker, Charner Hill, and for over 50 years was a force in the social and religious life of the town. She campaigned against the sale of beer. She also led the movement to pressure the Forsyth City Council to allow African Americans to see movies in the Rose Theater. Always open for adventure, she traveled extensively and when she died at 86, she had been planning a trip to Ireland.

"hostess with the mostess," reigned from her ante bellum home at the corner of Agnes and East Main Streets for over 65 years as an independent and inquisitive grand dame. Aggie Newton studied at the Cordon Bleu in Paris, scoured the woods of Monroe County for wild mushrooms, taught Sunday school at the First Baptist Church, and collected American art. When she wintered in Florida she let it be known that she had put rattlesnakes out in her house. She never had a break in.

**22. Norsworthy, Elsie Kimbell** [1885-1964] Elsie Kimbell Norsworthy entered into local folklore when her son bought her casket long before her death, placed it in the hall of the family's home, and had his mother rest in it a little each night so that she would be comfortable in it. Comfortable or not, she rests there now.

**23. Pinckard, James Steptoe** [1810-1879] Known as the veteran of three wars, Pinckard fought the Creek and Seminole Indians with the local militia, the Monroe Musketeers. In 1846 and 1847 he was with a unit during the war with Mexico. Finally, in 1861 when he was 51, he commanded the Quitman Guard when it rallied for the Confederacy. His ante bellum home still stands at 219 Brooklyn Avenue. When not fighting, he was an attorney and suitor, having married three times.

**24. Rutherford, Sam** [1870-1932] Born to the Rutherford family of Culloden, young Sam established a law practice in Forsyth with his University of Georgia classmate, Ogden Persons, in 1894. He engaged in banking, managed his large plantation, and filled various local elected posts. He was elected to U.S. Congress in 1924. When he died of a heart attack while shaving, he was championing legislation that later became the 22nd amendment to the United States Constitution.

New Jersey and son of the first Talmadge to own land in Monroe County, Talmadge spent his adult life here, farming land that remained in the family until the second half of the 20th century. Both his great-grandson, Eugene Talmadge, and great-great grandson, Herman Talmadge, became governors of the state of Georgia.

**30. Trippe, Robert P.** [1819-1900] Trippe was both a Federal and a Confederate Congressman, serving the Congress in Washington (1855-1859) and the Congress in Richmond (1862-1864), where he generally supported Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Trippe did not let being in Congress protect him from military service. As a Confederate Congressman, at 43 he enlisted as a private in the Eighth Regiment, Georgia State Guards. After the war, he established his law practice in Atlanta, where he died in 1900.

**31. Wright, Julius** [1867-1943] Born during Reconstruction on the Rutherford plantation in Culloden, Wright came to Forsyth to learn barbering and set up his shop on what is now Paul James Place. Wright and his wife, Lena Bell, carefully invested their money in small parcels of real estate. Their primary concern was the education of their children. Two became physicians; one was a professor of business at Atlanta University; and two others were teachers. All except one were a part of the Great Migration of African Americans leaving the South for the Northern states.

**32. Midnight Ride** As legend has it, a man, presumably Dr. Asa V. Mann, so highly regarded his horse that he wanted it buried near him. The site next to the wall of the Mann plot, according to the story, covers the grave of the much beloved horse. It is said, at midnight on a full moon, one can hear the ghost of the horse galloping across the sky.