

Alabama Register Property Information

Added 6/23/94

RECEIVED

JAN 12 1994



Ala. Historical Commission

1. Name

historic LAGRANGE CEMETERY

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ROUTE 3 - LAGRANGE COLLEGE ROAD

city, town LEIGHTON vicinity of LAGRANGE COLLEGE SITE

state ALABAMA 35646 county COLBERT

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name L. C. JEFFRIES

street & number MEADOW STREET

city, town LEIGHTON (LEIGHTON HIGH vicinity of SCHOOL) state AL 35646

5. Please use space below to sketch floor plan/site plan.

SEE ENCLOSURE

6. Description

Cemetery

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>Jan 8, 1994</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The most prominent monument and surrounding limestone wall in the LaGrange Cemetery is in dire need of restoration. The east end part of north wall and steps leading down to the 12' ft. marble Ricks monument have collapsed. Several huge Ricks family grave markers have also fallen inside the wall and need to be repaired and cleaned. (Slides mailed earlier of this condition) A major restoration project to reconstruct the falling wall and tombs are planned for the future by the LaGrange Historical Assoc.

Most smaller tombstones that have broken from years of vandalism and neglect have been mended and cleaned. Work is still in progress. Missing markers are being replaced as grave sites are identified. More than 7 years ago, the LaGrange Historical Assoc. undertook a tremendous task clearing undergrowth away from the cemetery. Since that undertaking, the grass has been cut on a regular basis and trash is picked up weekly by Milton Ford from the grounds. A new flag pole and cemetery sign was erected several years ago by the Assoc. and friends of LaGrange. The pillar of the sign is sand stone rock, native to the area. Contributions for the Cemetery restoration is continually being requested. Future plans are to erect a fence where cable lines now serve as a barrier to prevent traffic from driving inside the cemetery grounds.

The Calhoun Co. Commission graded and graveled the road leading to the cemetery during May 1993.

Visitors to the LaGrange College Site tour the cemetery prior to leaving the mountain.

7. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

OWNED BY THE METHODIST WHEN ESTABLISHED, BOTH THE COLLEGE SITE AND CEMETERY WERE A PART OF A LARGE TOWN OVERLOOKING THE TENNESSEE VALLEY PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR. THE CEMETERY IS THE BURIAL GROUNDS FOR MANY PROMINENT PEOPLE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE MAINTAINING ALABAMA'S 1ST COLLEGE President, professors and family members of ^{THE} College are buried there. The largest monument (12' ft. high) is the grave marker of Abraham Ricks (builder of "The Oaks" on historical register) and is built of Italian marble. The monument in 1852 cost \$5,000.00 & took days and teams of oxen to pull marble up to top of mt. Craven spent 2 yrs. carving monument on the mt. while living with family members in the valley. The monument reflects the wealth of this slave owner and principal stockholder in the railroad. He owned 10,000 acres of land. Three confederate graves are in LaGrange Cemetery also. The cemetery and surrounding area is noted for its PETRIFIED WOOD; FOUND & displayed for many years in museums state wide. Also petrified is a young woman, Annie Vinson Ford, buried on "wrong side" of cemetery - later "dug up" and moved to another space beside family members, her body had petrified. Another petrified body was discovered at the foot of mountain when new hwy. was built several years ago, which leads one to assume that all buried in LaGrange Cemetery is petrified.

8. Major Bibliographical References

HISTORY OF LAGRANGE COLLEGE BY PROF. A.A. MCGREGOR
(FORMER PROF. OF LAGRANGE COLLEGE)
(COPY SENT IN EARLIER MAILING)

HISTORY BOOKLET ON "THE OAKS" (HOME OF ABRAHAM RICKS BY PRESENT
(OWNER MARY LYANNE KIMBROUGH)

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.2 A

Quadrangle name LEIGHTON

Quadrangle scale 1" - 2000'

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ATTACHED MAPS

10. Form Prepared By

WILLIAM GOTCHER (LAGRANGE MEMBER)
HELPER W/ LEGAL PAPERS

name/title LOUISE HOWARD - LINVILLE (BOARD MEMBER)

organization LAGRANGE LIVING HISTORICAL ASSOC. date JAN. 8, 1994

street & number P.O. BOX 306 telephone 205-446-9324

city or town LEIGHTON state AL 35646

11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

SLIDES SUBMITTED IN EARLIER MAILING -

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form to:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130

Map - showing location of *Intersecting Corners*

T.4S.-R.10W.

SEE PAGE 30



SEE PAGE 16

MC Afee Cr.

Colbert County, Ala.

Historic LaGrange ...

The town of LaGrange, Alabama, was founded by well-to-do cotton planters from Leighton and the surrounding area. The poor drainage around Leighton was responsible for swarms of mosquitoes which carried malaria to the inhabitants of the valley. It was a desire to escape this unhealthy atmosphere that caused the planters to establish summer homes on Lawrence Hill. The first home on the mountain was built about 1820, and by 1823 LaGrange had become a permanent settlement.

The name "LaGrange" was taken from that of the country estate of the Marquis de Lafayette, the French nobleman who fought in the American Revolution and whose name was revered by Americans in the young Republic. The town fathers selected the soldier-of-fortune's own name to grace the new institute of higher learning that they established for their young ladies-- the Lafayette Female Academy. Founded in January, 1826, it was by turns for ladies only, then co-educational, a prep school for LaGrange College, and finally for ladies again. The buildings of the Academy were burned in April, 1863, although the ladies' boardinghouse survived, later to be dismantled and moved to the valley below.

LaGrange College was built by the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, after the town fathers offered the conference \$10,000 to pay for the cost of its construction. There may have been a bit of competitive spirit in the Methodist's move, as the Lafayette Academy was then run by the Baptists. (And quite successfully, at that. The Academy's director was a Baptist minister, Dr. Daniel P. Bester, who was also minister of the large brick church erected near the Academy in 1825.) The trustees of LaGrange College met on the mountain on January 18, 1829, to begin their work, and exactly one year and one day later, LaGrange College opened for classes. Eight days after its opening, LaGrange received its charter from the state of Alabama. It thus became Alabama's first institution of higher learning.

The Rev. Robert Paine was LaGrange College's first president. After Dr. Paine was made bishop of the conference in 1847, his place was taken by Dr. Edward Wadsworth. Wadsworth's administration was not attended with great success. From 1848 to 1849, the enrollment dropped from 139 to 60. In 1852, Dr. Wadsworth resigned, and he was replaced by Professor James Hardy who died suddenly the following year. His successor was Dr. Richard Rivers, who was able to boost enrollment to 230 students, but was still faced with "a huge debt."

Rivers despaired of ever making the institution a success on the mountain, and when the town of Florence offered money and facilities to the college if it would relocate, Rivers obtained the permission of the conference and accepted the offer. In 1855, Rivers moved most of the faculty and student body to Florence. Now the LaGrange partisans did not take these events quietly. In the legislature and in the courts, a bitter "rear-guard" action was waged by the stay-behinds on the mountain to keep the "deserters" from taking the name and charter of LaGrange College. In this they were largely successful. Rivers and his allies were forced to obtain a new name and charter for their relocated university. The Florence college was dubbed "Florence Wesleyan University." Today it is known as the University of North Alabama, and it proudly traces its lineage to LaGrange's early days. Even so, there are still those who live around the mountain that mutter about "treachery" and "desertion," not without some justification.

The battle between the two factions was not limited to the courts, however. One night during the "evacuation" by the Rivers' forces, the entire library was loaded into several wagons for the trip to Florence. In the opinion of the LaGrange partisans, this amounted to little more than outright theft, and as soon as word spread of the library's hijacking an armed posse was sent out into the night to retrieve it. The LaGrange vigilantes caught up with the wagon train in South Florence, where it was waiting for the ferry to cross the Tennessee River. A fight was averted by the timely arrival of the sheriff, who impounded the books until the courts could decide their rightful owners. In time, LaGrange got its library back, but "in damaged condition."

Several of faculty who stayed behind on the mountain attempted to carry on the college with the help of wealthy supporters like Hartwell King, Jr., but the future of LaGrange College was in serious jeopardy. Salvation came from the state of Alabama. In 1857, the state took over the college and under the new name "LaGrange College and Military Academy" the facility entered its most vigorous and successful period.



La Grange Military Academy



BRIGADIER GENERAL GRENVILLE M. DODGE

...Was Burned At His Order

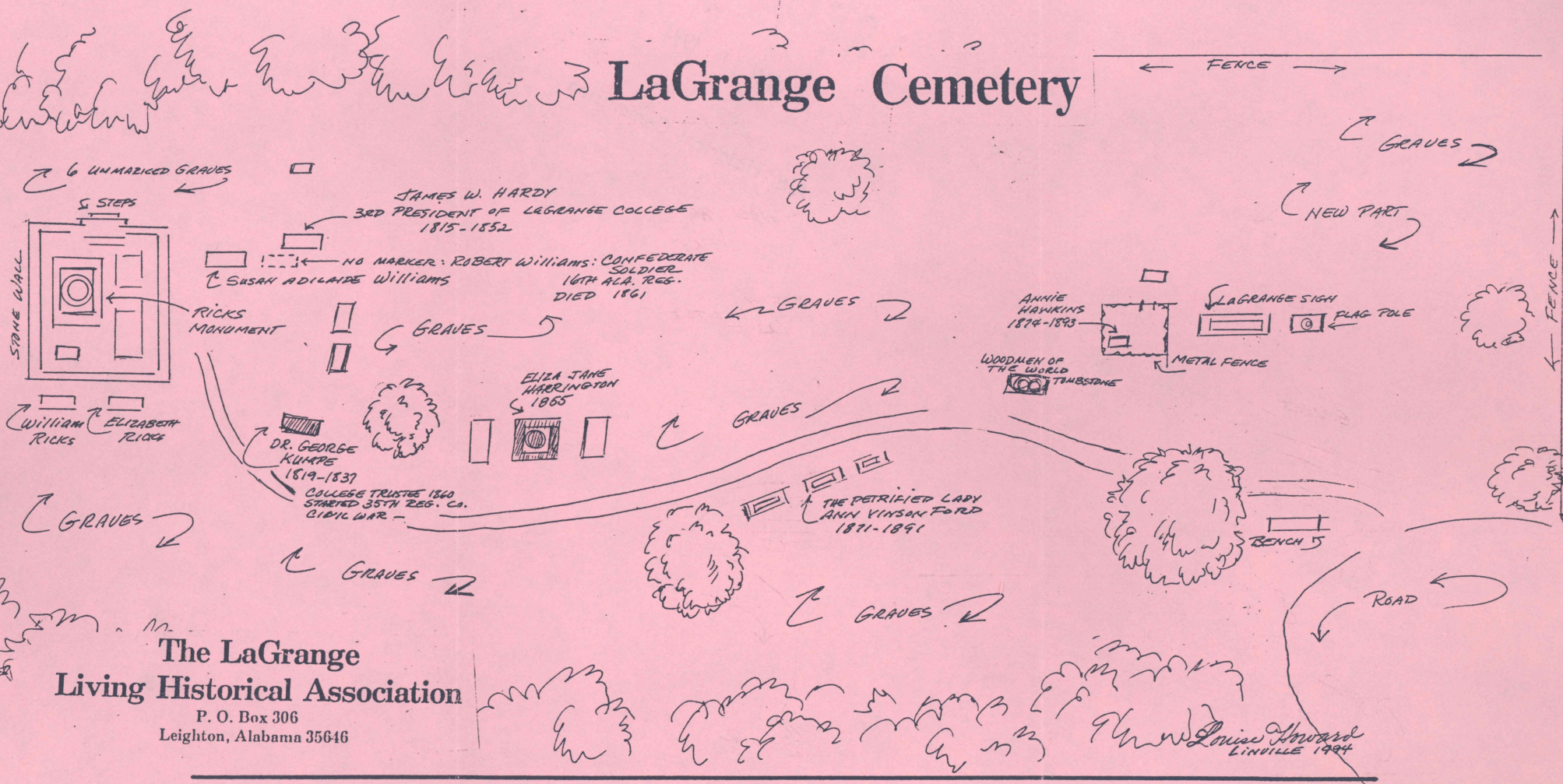
LaGrange Military Academy was called "Alabama's West Point," and two boys from each county in the state were selected by competitive examination to become "State Cadets" with their expenses paid. In addition, private students were enrolled as cadets at the Academy. By 1861, there were 170 studying at LaGrange. With the opening of the war, most cadets rushed to enlist and by 1862 the deserted LaGrange Military Academy was closed. The blood of LaGrange alumni stained the ground of all the major battles of the Civil War, and many of the minor skirmishes. LaGrange cadets formed the backbone of the 35th Alabama Infantry, which mustered into Confederate service at the Academy in early 1862. Though many boys left the mountain to go see the war, in time war came to the mountain.

By early 1863, armies of both sides had passed through the valley below LaGrange Mountain, but the town and empty college buildings had been spared war's destruction. The Union army's nearest base was Corinth, Mississippi, a post commanded by Brigadier General Grenville M. Dodge and plagued by Confederate guerrillas that drew sustenance from the Tennessee valley of Alabama. Dodge determined to choke off the guerrilla's supply base by any means necessary. His instrument was the cavalry brigade of Col. Florence M. Cornyn, a St. Louis doctor turned horse soldier. Dodge ordered Cornyn to make a series of raids into the valley, beginning with a raid to Tusculum in February, 1863. On these forays, Dodge told Cornyn to seize money from "prominent rebels" and burn any property, civilian or military, that might in any way aid the Confederacy.

The money Cornyn seized was turned over to Dodge PERSONALLY. Dodge later claimed he spent the money stolen from Confederate civilians on espionage operations, but refused his own superior's orders to account for it. In addition, there were standing army orders NOT TO DESTROY PURELY CIVILIAN PROPERTY. To protect himself, Dodge issued two sets of orders-- a public order forbidding destruction of property, and private orders to Cornyn to carry it out. Cornyn, an ardent Unionist and no lover of rebels, carried out Dodge's private orders. He dubbed his troops, "The Destroying Angels," and in April Cornyn accompanied Dodge's army into the valley and filled it with fire and smoke. On the night of April 29, 1863, "the Destroying Angels" claimed most of LaGrange-- the college buildings, shops, empty houses and some that weren't empty-- all went up in flames.

Cornyn was later court-martialed for "exceeding orders" by Dodge himself. He might have been cleared of the charges by proving Dodge had ordered all that had been done, but he never had the chance. Before his trial was over, Cornyn was murdered by his own 2nd in command, Lt. Col. William D. Bowen, an acquaintance of General Dodge. Bowen was later acquitted of the murder of Cornyn, and the transcript of Cornyn's court-martial disappeared. Dodge retired from the Union army a rich man, and LaGrange, its heart cut out, slowly disappeared.

LaGrange Cemetery



The LaGrange Living Historical Association
 P. O. Box 306
 Leighton, Alabama 35646

CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS GRAVES

- ① HENRY P. LOONEY
 DIED APRIL 10, 1933
 AGED 88 YRS. 2MO, 14 DAYS
- ② ROBERT WILLIAMS
 DIED 1861
 CONFEDERATE SOLDIER
 16TH ALABAMA REG.
- ③ RUFAS A. DAVIDSON
 BORN FEB. 23, 1845
 DIED APR. 15, 1865
 GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY
- ④ THOMAS DAVIDSON
 BORN APR 12, 1836
 DIED JUNE 27, 1863
 GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY


Add this to
 LaGrange
 Cemetery Register
 CORRECT APPLICATION - 4 CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS GRAVES INSTEAD OF 3

RESTORATION IN PROGRESS
CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

The preservation and restoration of the historic cemetery of the community is the primary purpose of the Historic Cemetery Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit organization and is currently seeking funds to restore the cemetery to its original state. The cemetery is located on the corner of 1st and 2nd Sts. in the town of [unclear].

LEGANDE LIVING HISTORY

1st St. 2nd St. 1st St. 2nd St.

A stone entrance marker for LaGrange Cemetery. The marker consists of two cylindrical stone pillars flanking a central rectangular plaque. The plaque is light-colored and has the words "LAGRANGE" and "CEMETERY" inscribed on it in dark, capital letters. The stone pillars are made of irregular, light-colored stones. The entire structure is set on a grassy area with trees and a fence in the background. In the foreground, there is a small, partially buried stone marker with some yellow flowers placed next to it.

LAGRANGE
CEMETERY







ETHEL
WIFE OF
C. H. WINDOL
BORN
SEPT. 23, 1862
DIED
APRIL 2, 1891

WINDOL



MARY ELIZABETH

BORN
DEC. 28, 1833.
DIED
JAN. 7, 1894.

W. W. B. B. B.



In
memory of
WILLIAM WILSON
President of the Grange, Colby
BORN
in Lincoln Co. Va. Jan. 21, 1815
DIED
at La Grange, Va. Aug. 5, 1884



CLARK M.
WRIGHT
BORN
APRIL 8, 1864
DIED
JUNE 25, 1905





SILAS M.
FOWLER

BORN
OCT. 30, 1810
DIED
APR. 14, 1889

MARY L.
DAVIDSON
WIFE OF
SILAS M.
FOWLER

BORN
MAR. 12, 1813
DIED
MAY 24, 1873

THE MASONIC TEMPLE, 100 N. 10TH ST., ST. LOUIS, MO.

Our Darling

MATTIE REBECCA

Daughter of

H. P. & P. R. KUMPE

Born Nov. 22, 1890

Died Sep. 3, 1947



1859



Miss Elizabeth
Daughter of
John & Mary
C. [unclear]

born [unclear]
died [unclear]

1859

FATHER
DR. GEORGE
KUMPE
SEP 7 1819
AUG 29 1887

MOTHER
REBECCA F.
WIFE OF
DR. GEORGE
KUMPE.
1837
AUG 30 1874

He that will give his life for me
will give them all unto death and I
will give them all unto life

KUMPE

HARTWELL
KING
FELTON,
BORN

May 6, 1847

DIED

July 25, 1882

AGED

35 yrs. 2 mo.

19 days.

He was a devoted
husband and father
and kind to all.

There is a world above
where he is at rest.

1882



A MONUMENT OF
MILITARY
BY THICKS
MARCH 5 1841
FEB. 10 1860.



WIFE OF
H. F. FORD
BORN
DIED
AGED 159 1/2
RESIDED

WOLFE

WIFE OF
MARK KISER
BORN MAY 12 1877
DIED FEB 10 1989

ANNIE VINSON
WIFE OF
WILLIS H. FORD
DEC. 16, 1874
MAR. 26, 1921



LAGRANGE
CEMETERY



RICHARD HENDRICKS

1845 - 1915



THE
GRAND
DIED
OCT 17 1870
AGE 50 YRS
BURIED IN THE
CITY OF
NEW YORK

