

Presbyterian Cemetery – Lynchburg, Virginia

Stories of Three People Buried There

Max Guggenheimer

Max Guggenheimer was born in Bavaria in 1842. His family emigrated to the United States in 1859. He enlisted at 17 in Lynchburg's Home Guard, and at 19 years of age joined Company G, Virginia Infantry in 1861. He received a permanent disability while serving, and returned to Lynchburg to become a very successful retail merchant. On June 30th, 1869, in a Lynchburg Court, he became a naturalized citizen of the US. He established two shoe industries as well as several wholesale stores, employing many people. He and his wife Bertha had one daughter, Cecile. In 1979 he was elected to Lynchburg's City Council. As Chairman of the finance committee, he helped the city out of a financial crisis, got many of the city's streets paved, and helped establish the first public school system in Lynchburg.

For twenty-five years, he served a Director of the Lynchburg National Bank and served as President of the local Jewish congregation. In 1988 he opened the Craddock-Terry Shoe company and became the first President of the Lynchburg Cotton Mill. As a family, the Guggenheimers were well-known for their philanthropy. They established the Guggenheimer-Milliken Playground and the Guggenheimer Memorial Hospital.

Many people used to think that the Presbyterian Cemetery was only for Presbyterians. Max Guggenheimer knew better. When asked by his friends in the synagogue while he wished to be buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery, he said, "It is the last place the devil would ever think to look for a Jew."

Dr. Edward Addison Craighill

Dr. Edward Addison Craighill was born in Charlestown, VA in 1840. He entered the University of Pennsylvania and graduated from the School of Medicine in 1861. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted as a member of Company G, 2nd Virginia Infantry and served with the regiment called Botts' Greys, part of the Stonewall Brigade. He received a commission as Assistant Surgeon in October of 1861 that made him the youngest doctor in the Confederate military.

Dr. Craighill took care of many soldiers in many different places during the war. During the Battle of Lynchburg, he found out that the Union soldiers had retreated from the Sandusky House leaving many wounded soldiers suffering in a barn on the property. He went to the property and brought those soldiers to Lynchburg to Confederate hospitals so that they could get the care that they needed.

After the war Dr. Craighill married and settled in Lynchburg, opening a private practice. He was also actively involved in the retail drug profession, served on many other business boards, and was a member of Lynchburg's City Council from 1901-1904.

The Fire

1909 LYNCHBURG, Va., Oct. 26. -- Five girls, all residents of the nursery, were burned to death in a fire which totally destroyed Shelton Cottage, one home for girls at the Virginia Synod Presbyterian Orphans' Home, early this morning.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. Priest who was awakened by the roar of the flames. When she realized that they could not use the staircase to get out, she led 24 children to the veranda off of the third floor. These children were able to get down a ladder or to jump into the arms of the older boys who had come to help. Mrs. Priest was seriously hurt when she also had to jump for her life.

Four of the little girls who died were infants or toddlers. Ruby Moorefield was able to get out of the cottage. When she realized that her baby sister, Lucille, was still inside, she ran back inside to try to save her.

All five girls are buried in the Maple's Grove section of our cemetery.