

## Trinity Cemetery, 1859

The Trinity Cemetery on Rockford Drive in Trinity, North Carolina, was established in 1859 on property owned by prominent area resident Wiley W. Andrews (1825-1910).<sup>1</sup> It became the resting place for many of the educators who shaped Trinity College into the institution that became Duke University, including college founder Braxton Craven (1822-1882), as well as many members of the Trinity community.

The first marked burial in the cemetery was John Gaylord (1839-1859) of Pitt County, North Carolina, a Trinity College student who succumbed to pneumonia at age 20 years and nine months.<sup>2</sup>

Other notable burials associated with Trinity College include:

- Lemuel Johnson (1828-1910), a student and valedictorian of Trinity's first graduating class who became a longtime professor of mathematics at the school;
- William Trigg Gannaway (1825-1910), a longtime Latin professor;
- Obed William Carr (1833-1905), a student in the 1850s and long-tenured professor;
- John Franklin Heitman (1840-1904), a professor and former student who helped sustain the college after Braxton Craven's death; and
- The Rev. Dougan Clark Johnson (1825-1878), the first graduate of the Normal College (the teacher training institute) that would become Trinity College.

Also interred in the cemetery are members of the Pegram family, including William Howell Pegram (1846-1928), a college professor and husband of Braxton Craven's daughter Emma L. Craven Pegram (1845-1904); and their son George Braxton Pegram (1876-1958). George Braxton Pegram, a Trinity graduate, was a physicist who as Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences at Columbia University played a critical role in the establishment of what would become the Manhattan Project to develop the Atomic bomb. He also facilitated Great Britain's cooperation with the United States in the project.

Burials not directly associated with the college include Joseph Parkin, a former British Army officer who came from London to the area to manage the Hoover Hill Goldmine, and his family. Andrews, the property owner, also is buried in the cemetery with members of his family.

The cemetery also is known as Trinity Cemetery #1, Trinity City Cemetery and Trinity Memorial Cemetery.

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<sup>1</sup> Andrews formally deeded the property to the Town of Trinity in 1904 (Randolph County Deed Book 370/236).

<sup>2</sup>See "Died," *Raleigh Christian Advocate*, 28 April 1859, 3, for a brief obituary. An alternative spelling of the last name is Gaylard.