

FOUNDER OF HENDERSON, KENTUCKY

After the Revolution, then Lt. Colonel Hopkins returned home, married, and by 1794, was building the first structures on the UNC Chapel Hill campus. This brought him to the attention of the Henderson Land Co.

In 1797, the Henderson Land Co. desired to settle their vast tract of western Kentucky land.

They hired Hopkins as their agent and lawyer to lay out a town along the Ohio River to be

named for their founder. Hopkins did an excellent job providing wide streets and public green spaces along the riverfront and in the heart of town which are still enjoyed today.



Hopkins brought his own and extended family to Kentucky in 1797-1798. He was the first Judge of Henderson County; a Kentucky Senator and Representative as well as a U. S. Representative. Hopkins County and the city of Hopkinsville are named for him.

Hopkins was commissioned a Major General in the War of 1812, leading men against warring Indian tribes aligned with the British.

One of his greatest contributions was attracting prominent families from Virginia and North Carolina to settle here as they would serve as a nucleus of future leaders for Henderson.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CEMETERY

The cemetery is located behind the U.K. Extension Office, at 3099 Zion Road, Henderson, Ky. The cemetery is accessible by a quarter mile walking trail, located off the main parking lot.

GPS coordinates: N 37.828913, W-87.542603



Actual Inscription at the Grave Site Located in Center of Cemetery

“Sacred to the Memory of General Samuel Hopkins, who was born 9th Apr 1753 and Died Sept 16th 1819. Firm with Temperance, Benevolent with Sincerity and Liberal without Ostentation. He closed in the Bosom of his Family, a Long Life of Exemplary Usefulness in Military and Civil Employment, Characterized by Ardent Devotion to his Country and the Best Interests of Man.”

SPRING GARDEN CEMETERY

HENDERSON, KY



GENERAL SAMUEL HOPKINS
SPRING GARDEN CEMETERY

**Burial Site of
Major General Samuel Hopkins Jr.
Revolutionary War Officer &
Founder of Henderson, Kentucky**

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

A Little Family Cemetery

General Hopkins, Revolutionary War Officer, died in 1819, and over the years, the property left family hands. As a result, the little family cemetery, in the middle of a farm field became inaccessible. In time, weather, weeds, and vandals caused the markers to fall over and break.

For over 55 years, local concerned citizens, including Dr. John Logan, the Historical Society and the DAR Chapter (named in memory of General Hopkins), prodded the city to do something about the deteriorated conditions in Spring Garden Cemetery. It was feared that the historic cemetery would become lost forever.

In 2001, a local historian led a group of concerned citizens on a work day at the cemetery. The sight of General Hopkins' broken marker, covered with a tangle of vines and leaning against a tree was nearly unbearable and stirred the call for more action by city leaders to preserve and restore this historic cemetery.

BEFORE & AFTER *The Cemetery's Historic Transformation*



Before



After

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
City purchases Cemetery	Cemetery Conservator Hired	Debris Cleared Trail Established	Cemetery Fenced Trail Paved	Markers Restored Cemetery Dedicated

PRESERVATION

Purchasing and Clearing the Land

In December of 2007, the City of Henderson purchased the 44.7 acre tract of land that included the small Spring Garden Cemetery. By March of 2008, a cemetery conservator had been hired and with the assistance of the local Historical Society, he assessed the cemetery's condition.



Path leading to cemetery

In October of 2009, Henderson County Detention Center inmates cleared the cemetery of all fallen limbs, weeds, undergrowth and deteriorated fencing.

The city and county constructed a quarter mile walking trail from the back of the U.K. Extension Service office parking lot to the cemetery.

RESTORATION

Protecting and Repairing the Cemetery

By fall of 2010, a refurbished wrought iron fence with brick cornerstones, new gate, and overhead sign were in place at the cemetery. Inscriptions on the markers were transcribed by a DAR member and a cemetery map was constructed.

In 2011, the markers were restored and a new sign, part of a BSA Eagle Service Project, was erected. It described the cemetery and Hopkins' many accomplishments.

On September 16, 2011, 192 years after his death, Major General Samuel Hopkins Jr. was once again memorialized by the dedication of the restored cemetery, saved by cooperative efforts of city, county and volunteer groups.

LITTLE LUCY AUDUBON MAY REST HERE

Lucy Audubon, young daughter of John James Audubon may be buried in this cemetery. She died in 1816 at age 2, when the Audubons resided in Henderson. Published accounts have recorded this as her burial site and some local residents recall having seen her marker here.



Visitors explore the cemetery during The Depot Community Room's guided walking tour.

Credits: Brochure written by Mary Alice Springer. Photos provided by Darrin Phegley, The Gleaner, Jessica Heacock & Betty Smithhart. Layout by Henderson County Tourist Commission.