

**More Historical
Figures at New Park**

Mattie Wigley (1996)

An exceptional gospel singer, Mattie Wigley brought joy and passion to those that loved her music.

As a sanctified or holiness singer, she performed in a "shouting" musical style, accompanied by hand-clapping, tambourines, guitars, and other instruments. She performed as a soloist at a Memphis Pentecostal church until very late in her life.



Johnny 'Ace' Alexander (1954)

Duke Records artists and rhythm and blues recording star Johnny 'Ace' Alexander made waves on the R&B charts with hits like 'Cross My Heart', 'Please Forgive Me' and 'My Song'. At the young age of 25, a gun accident brought



about his death. His music and spirit lives on through his recordings, which have been in high demand since his death.

Proud Heritage

Just imagine the great sounds of 'Memphis' Blues, Soul and Rock and Roll whose memories are preserved here at New Park. The Civil Rights Movement is forever engraved in the memorials of those individuals who fought so hard to make a difference.

The history, landmarks, legends and leaders found at our cemetery comprise some of the most amazing talents of our time. Come visit our cemetery for a full tour of the leaders that are resting here even as their legacies live on.



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Inc.**

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*A History of Legendary
Service*

*New Park Cemetery,
Inc.*



*Legends
Landmarks
History
Leaders*

**New Park
Cemetery, Inc.**

A History of Legendary Service

For over 80 years, New Park Cemetery has been providing exceptional service to our customers. We've had the prestigious honor of serving as the final resting place for some of history's finest musicians, business and religious leaders.

Our facility is now the eternal resting place of musical talents Rufus Thomas, Johnny 'Ace' Alexander and members of the Bar-Kays to name a few.

Grave sites of religious leaders such as Reverend William H. Brewster, Sr. and Mattie Wigley can also be found here. In addition, the resting place of prominent African-American business people and leaders such as T.O. Fuller and Emma Wilburn are at New Park.



Extraordinary Care for Extraordinary People

We've built a tradition of service excellence at New Park. As such, some very influential people have chosen our cemetery as their final resting place. This brochure gives a brief sampling of the legends, heroes and influential talents that are buried at our facility. Each one played a unique role in making the world we live in a better place. By remembering them, their legends and lessons still positively affect our world today.

Emma Wilburn (1937)

Mrs. Wilburn was a prominent African American business woman in the early 1900's. She founded New Park cemetery and continues to be an inspiration to those of us who believe that dedication, knowledge and satisfied clients are the measurements of true success.



Rufus Thomas (2001)

The self-proclaimed 'World's Largest Teenager', Rufus Thomas is still a music legend. Through the shows he emceed at The Palace, Rufus had a large impact on the success of such acts as BB King and Bobby 'Blue' Bland. By making Memphis music known around the globe, Rufus Thomas is largely responsible for the popularity of Beale Street.



T.O. Fuller (1942)

Dr. Thomas O. Fuller spent his life empowering and educating African-Americans during the late



1800's and early 1900's. He was also a minister of a Baptist church, a teacher in a North Carolina public school and a principal at the Shiloh Institute. In 1898 he was the only African-American senator in North Carolina, and he was also an important historical and spiritual writer.

Reverend William H. Brewster, Sr. (1987)

Born in Somerville, Tennessee, Reverend Brewster composed scores of gospel songs such as "Move on Up a Little Higher," "Surely, God Is Able," and "Just Over the Hill." He also wrote plays in commemoration of the black struggle for civil rights. He marched with Martin Luther King, Jr., and reportedly, Elvis Presley was a fan of Reverend Brewster's.



The Bar-Kays

Three of the original Bar-Kays are buried at New Park Cemetery: Carl Lee Cunningham (drummer), Phalon Jones (sax) and Jimmie King, Jr. (guitar). On their way to a gig with Otis Redding on December 10, 1967, their plane crashed. As Stax recording artists, their hit songs such as 'Soul Finger' had a large impact on the R&B and pop charts.

