

## CONTACTS

### WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

#### BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM

268 North Harris Street, Sandersville 478-552-1965

#### GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER AND OLD JAIL MUSEUM

129 Jones Street, Sandersville 478-552-6965

#### OLD CITY CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Email: [sanocc@sandersvilleoldcitycemtery.com](mailto:sanocc@sandersvilleoldcitycemtery.com)

### WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

131 West Haynes Street 478-552-3288

### CITY OF SANDERSVILLE

141 West Haynes Street 478-552-2525

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## OLD CITY CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Restoration and preservation of Sandersville Old City Cemetery is overseen by the Old City Cemetery Committee of the Washington County Historical Society in cooperation with the City of Sandersville.

### Committee Members:

Martha Armstrong	Edna Lewis
Frank Cummings	Susan Lewis
Jo Ann Garner	Larry Mathis
Cecil Hodges	Mary Murphy
Ray Hollingsworth	Shaun Veal, Chair
Dan Hutchins	



[sandersvilleoldcitycemtery.com](http://sandersvilleoldcitycemtery.com)

## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Charles Edward Choate, Architect and Builder, Exhibit, the official State of Georgia Historical Plates Display, and Walking and Driving Tours at the Washington County Chamber of Commerce: 131 West Haynes Street, Sandersville.

Genealogy Research Center and Old Jail Museum: 129 Jones Street, Sandersville.

Brown House Museum: private residence at time of Civil War where General Sherman spent the night of November 26, 1864: 268 North Harris Street, Sandersville.

Georgia's Oldest Jail: State Route 15 North, Warthen.

Hamburg State Park with Mill: 6071 Hamburg State Park Road, Mitchell (Northern Washington County).

Revolutionary War Park: Highway 68, South of Tennille.

March to the Sea Heritage Trail, Civil War Historic Driving Route: [gcwht.org](http://gcwht.org) (Washington County sites).

Jefferson Davis Heritage Trail: Washington County sites.

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## LODGING

DAYS INN: 128 Commerce Street, Sandersville, 478-553-0393

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS: 508 South Harris Street, Sandersville, 478-553-1414

VILLA SOUTH MOTOR INN: 725 South Harris Street, Sandersville, 478-552-1234



## SANDERSVILLE, GEORGIA

City Hall  
141 West Haynes Street  
Sandersville, Georgia 31082

Phone: 478-552-2525

Fax: 478-552-6006

[sandersville.net](http://sandersville.net)

## OLD CITY CEMETERY SANDERSVILLE, GEORGIA

CIRCA 1831



100 VIRGINIA AVENUE  
SANDERSVILLE, GEORGIA

NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF  
HISTORIC PLACES



MARCH TO THE SEA  
HERITAGE TRAIL  
CIVIL WAR HISTORIC DRIVING ROUTE

## HISTORY IN BRIEF

It is believed the site for Sandersville Old City Cemetery was first used as a cemetery in the early 19th Century. The cemetery is currently dated from 1831 because this “death” date is the earliest to be found today. There are many unknown and unmarked burials in the North-West section of the cemetery that may date earlier than 1831. Old City Cemetery began as the cemetery of the Methodist-Episcopal Church. Eventually the cemetery expanded to its current 5.5 acres.

## CEMETERY MONUMENTS

No wooden headboards survive. However, upright fieldstones or “domicks” still serve as markers for some graves in the older north-central section of the cemetery.

**Federal Era Markers:** The oldest inscribed marker still in existence in the cemetery is a broken dislocated headstone marking the grave of Reuben B. Barney. The marker is less than two inches thick and was cut from a poor grade of marble and bears the date 1831.

**Victorian Markers:** Many markers are of Victorian Design are an eclectic blend of different architectural elements and styles of monuments. Although Queen Victoria ruled from 1819-1901, Victorian architecture had a longer influence in cemeteries. A particularly fine grouping is found on Row 14 Lot 131.

**Greek Revival Markers:** There was a return to Classical styling between 1900 and the mid 1920s. In the center of the cemetery, a Greek Revival mausoleum with Romanesque and Baroque influences is located on a large lot sitting on Rows 7-8 Lots 79-82. Most Romanesque inspired structures in Washington County date from the 1840-60s.

With some exceptions, the erection of large monuments ceased in the cemetery by the 1930s.



Brantley-Pringle  
Mausoleum  
Built 1878

## HISTORICAL FIGURES

**Reverend J.D. Anthony:** Saved Sandersville from being burned by General Sherman, [Official Methodist Site](#)  
Row 1 Lot 42

**William Rawlings, MD:** World Renowned Surgeon  
Row 2 Lot 30

**Coleman R. Pringle:** Father of Prohibition in Georgia  
Rows 7-8 Lots 79-82 (mausoleum)

**Clara Park:** One of the first female missionaries to China  
Row 7 Lot 87

**Benjamin J. Tarbuton:** President, Central of Georgia  
Railroad from January 1951- July 1954  
Row 9 Lot 103

**Thomas W. Hardwick:** Governor of Georgia 1921-1923  
Row 9 Lot 201



Confederate Memorial

## CONFEDERATE YEARS

Significant Civil War activity took place around the site of the Methodist Church, the first church in Sandersville (now marked by a cross), built on a knoll adjacent to the original part of the cemetery. The original road to Sandersville from Milledgeville, now defined by wooden posts, ran through the cemetery by the side of the church.

Major Henry Hitchcock, a member of General William Tecumseh Sherman’s staff, in *Marching with Sherman* states:

“Sandersville, Georgia, In Camp, In open field Saturday, November 26, 1864 11<sup>th</sup> day: Left camp by 6 ½ AM- Wheeler’s cavalry in our front, undertook to skirmish Slocum’s 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade advanced skirmishers and before long we heard their firing. General and staff rode forward-road narrow for some distance and through pine woods and across low ground through which ran creek. Road full of troops, wagons, camp followers had to go slow...we entered town passed Church with “Grecian Front” and from a distance, cross road, saw dead rebel laying on the portico.”

The above referenced cavalry skirmishing took place in the cemetery and in the short half-block between it and the Court-house square. *Sandersville Herald* May 3, 1877 states:

“.... Alonzo Moore of the Texas cavalry and John P. Brunson of the Tennessee cavalry, both having fallen in a skirmish, in this city, between Gen. Wheeler’s cavalry and Gen. Sherman’s advance, were buried in one grave. Mary C. Brunson, wife of John, wrote from Pulaski, TN that her brother-in-law had returned home and “It nearly broke my heart when I heard how the Yankees treated his (John’s) body.” “With artistic skill our fair ladies beautified the ‘silent home’ of these sleeping braves...” which is believed to be one of the brick cradles

*Sandersville Herald:* November 26, 1896 states: “The Ladies Memorial Society has \$51 in hand and \$100 subscribed which they will give to the Confederate Veterans to erect a monument.”

*Sandersville Herald:* April 22, 1897 “Confederate monument to be unveiled.”

## Additional information

Official map, family names, location of burial sites, and other information is located at: [sandersville.net](http://sandersville.net)