

Colonel John Tipton
April 21, 1767 – October 8, 1831

Section 28.51 # 280168

John Tipton was born on April 21, 1767. He was the seventh of nine sons born to Captain John and Mary Butler Tipton. His father, a captain with Virginia troops during the Revolution, served in the Virginia House of Delegates and later in the Tennessee State Senate from 1796-1799. Captain Tipton died in 1813 and was buried at his home place in the Tipton-Haynes Cemetery, Washington County, Tennessee.

John Tipton married Elizabeth Snapp in Shenandoah County, Virginia, on October 28, 1791. He served as a Colonel in the Tennessee Militia. At the 5th General Assembly, held in Knoxville in 1803, he was a Representative from Sullivan County. Eight times he was elected to the State House of Representatives and two times elected to the State Senate. He died, at age 64 years, on October 8, 1831, at the Nashville Inn while the Legislature was convened in that city. The local newspaper provided the Order of the Procession to the City Cemetery: The Casket, Relatives, attending Physician, Clergy, Speakers and Officers of both House, Members of both Houses, the Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Mayor and Aldermen of Nashville. The 19th General Assembly, 1831, authorized that a marker be placed over Colonel Tipton's grave at City Cemetery.

Many years later, about 1890, Judge William B. Reese, while visiting the City Cemetery, discovered that Colonel Tipton's marker had fallen and broken. Yet he was able to fit together the broken pieces and read the inscription which said the marker had been placed by the State of Tennessee. The 49th General Assembly, in 1895, ordered a new handsome monument for Colonel Tipton. One side of the monument stated: "Col. John Tipton. Died October 8, 1831. Erected by Order of the 49th General Assembly." In May 1897, the local newspaper provided their readers with additional text from the Tipton monument: "Placed here by the officers and members of the Forty-nine General Assembly as a token of the regard for the talents and exalted worth of the deceased... He was a patriot, bold in conception and fearless in execution. Covered with honors..."

Sources

National Banner & Nashville Whig. October 12 & November 30, 1831 City Cemetery website
Acts of 19th and Actos of 49th Tennessee General Assembly (1831 & 1895). TSLA
History of Nashville. 1890. Wooldridge. Judge's Reese's account of broken Tipton marker
Nashville Banner, May 1, 1897. Inscription. Tipton new monument. City Cemetery website

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