

Mayors of Nashville. **Not Buried at City Cemetery**

William Tait. Term 1811-1813. 3rd Mayor

Died in Nashville on February 4, 1816

Place of Burial: Probable site: Graveyard near Sulphur Springs

Residence. Clayton 1880 *History of Davidson County*, page 201

"William Tait, a wealthy Scotch merchant, lived in a frame residence across from Col. Samuel D. Morgan (on Summer Street). He (Tait) died of the "cold plague" in 1816, which was more destructive than cholera at that day."

Residence. Original Will at Metro Archives. Signed May 31, 1815. Also Codicil to his Will. Recorded May 15, 1816.

Land tracts are identified in his will. Reference is made to bequest to my wife Margaret of "Lot No. 77 in the Town of Nashville whereon I now live..." Two plantations were identified in his will: on Richland and Browns Creek and the people who lived on these properties.

Note: Margaret Tait's Will was signed February 8, 1816 and recorded May 16, 1816, one day after her husband's will. Both wills made specific requests for the support of the Robert Stothard family. (microfilm at TSLA)

Obituary. *Nashville Whig*, Tuesday, February 7, 1816

"Died - on Saturday last, about 2 o'clock P.M.

Mr. William Tait, for thirty years one of the most respectable citizens of this town. On Sunday his remains were interred with masonic honors."

Where would William Tait's burial have taken place? Since William Tait lived in town, he was probably buried in 1816, at the graveyard near the Sulphur Springs which was used prior to the opening of City Cemetery 1822.

William Tait was a member of Cumberland Lodge No. 8.

The Minutes of Cumberland Lodge No. 8 are on Mf. 433 at TSLA. Earliest years (1812-1817) of the Lodge are lost. Wilkins Tannehill prepared a "Portfolio" of these years but no funeral records were included in these articles (Copy. Special Collections, Nashville Public Library).

Earlier listings for burials of the Mayors of Nashville gave William Tait's burial at City Cemetery. This misidentification might have been confused by the burial of another Margaret Tait at City Cemetery. The following research information is on the Nashville City Cemetery web site for Margaret Tait (1806-1842).

1908 Plat Map Margaret Tait Section 28-D

1908 Inscriptions Margaret Tait 1806-1842 Consort of Richard Tait

1909 Alphabetical List of Dead Margaret Tait Section 28-D

Report. Fletch Coke. 11-12-2010