

Dr. Felix Robertson
January 11, 1781 – July 10, 1865

Section 28.51 # 280043

Felix Robertson is the first known white child born in the Cumberland Settlements (now Nashville). He was born on January 11, 1781 at Freeland's Station. His mother Charlotte Reeves Robertson had arrived with the families on the flat boats at French Lick, on April 24, 1780. She joined her husband James who had led the overland trip of men, boys & livestock that had already arrived the previous December. Felix was the sixth of eleven children born to Charlotte and James Robertson.

In 1806 Felix earned his degree from the first medical school in the country at the University of Pennsylvania, founded in 1765. During his studies in Philadelphia, he had met Lydia Waters. Two years after his graduation, they were married on October 8, 1808 in Nashville.

Felix and Lydia made their home on Cherry (now 4th Avenue North) near Church Street. There he had his office. The couple had nine children. Lydia died in 1832 at age 44 years. She was buried in the Robertson lot beside her father-in-law at City Cemetery.

Dr. Robertson had a distinguished medical career. He specialized in the diseases of children. He introduced quinine in the treatment of fevers. He was the physician at the State Penitentiary in Nashville. Dr. Robertson served three terms as Mayor of Nashville (1818, 1827 & 1828) and eight terms as President of the Medical Society of Tennessee. During his later years he lived alone after all his six surviving children had married and moved away. His death was the result of injuries sustained in a buggy accident caused by runaway horse. His obituary noted "at 84 ½ years old, he was ripe in years and full of honors" and was "beloved by more than thirty thousand of his immediate fellow citizens." He was buried in the Robertson lot beside his wife, his mother and father at City Cemetery.

Sources

Nashville Academy of Medicine. History. On-line

University of Pennsylvania Medical College. On-line

Davidson County, TN. Marriage. October 8, 1808. On-line

Inscription. Lydia Waters Robertson. Birthplace & Date. City Cemetery website

Mayoral History. Nashville. On-line

Obituary. .National *Banner & Nashville Daily Advertiser*, November 19, 1832 Lydia Robertson

Obituary. *Nashville Weekly Press & Daily Press & Times*, July 16, 1865. Dr. Felix Robertson

Obituaries. City Cemetery website

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